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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THOUGH the meeting of Parliament is now close at hand, the most contrary opinions continue to be expressed as to what Ministers will do in respect to the Reform question. On referring to journals which claim to be especially well informed as to the intentions and plans of the Conservative party, we find the same vague predictions on this subject that are also to be met with in the columns of the Liberal papers. We are gravely told that either Lord Derby's Government will or will not bring in a Reform bill; but that, if it does, we may count upon its presenting a very considerable resem-

blance to the one introduced by Mr. Disraeli in 1859. For once the Queen's Speech will possess some interest. It seems impossible that it should not contain at least some mention of the Reform question; but, whether it will recommend it in general terms to the consideration of the House, or will pledge the Government absolutely to the introduction of a bill, remains to be seen. One or two journals, not very Liberal nor yet very Conservative in tone, have hinted that it might be a good thing, considering the number of practical measures that are waiting to be passed, to postpone all consideration of the Reform question

for another year. This, it seems to us, would be the worst policy in the world. From those who, like Mr. Disraeli, desire to "extend" the suffrage without lowering it, to those who, like Mr. Lawrence Oliphant, are distinctly in favour of giving it to all who can write their names, and who, on being challenged to do so, can prove their ability to read, there is scarcely a man in the House of Commons who has not declared himself in favour of a Reform measure of some kind or other. The bill introduced last Session was the fifth that had been introduced since the year 1854. The Conservatives have shown themselves as ready to "patch the Constitution"



THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN REGENT'S PARK: DIVERS PREPARING TO SEARCH FOR BODIES OF SUFFERERS.

as Liberals; the difference being that one party wishes to patch it with light blue, the others with blue and buff—if those respectable old colours are still acknowledged by the main body of the Liberal party. There must, of course, be a considerable difference between a reform bill drawn up by Mr. Disraeli and one drawn up by Mr. Gladstone; and it has been said, with apparent justice, that the advocates of "lateral extension" wish to cast their nets in Conservative waters, while the chief thought of downward Reformers is to catch Liberals. In the bill of last Session an attempt was made to satisfy both parties—some of the clauses in it being derived from the Whig and Radical traditions of the last dozen years or so, while others were taken bodily from the Derby-Disraeli bill of 1859. The usual result followed. Both parties were dissatisfied; and if a comprehensive measure be proposed to the House now, we scarcely see what greater chance it will have of being accepted than it had last Session. It will be a great pity, however, if something be not done to dispose, at least for a considerable time, of a question which has so long stopped the way. Even if Reform be a mere delusion, as many Conservatives and even one or two Liberals maintain, still all parties and sections of parties in the House have had a share in raising this ghost, and all ought now to unite in an endeavour to lay it.

From Paris the news once more reaches us that the Emperor has at last resolved in earnest to perform his celebrated feat of "crowning the edifice." The time has arrived for liberty, or "*la liberté*," as some Paris correspondents foolishly call it, to be reimported into France; and the resignation of a whole batch of Ministers is explained by his Imperial Majesty's intention to introduce the principle of Ministerial responsibility. The atmosphere of French politics is so hazy that we will not even attempt this latest "mystery of Paris."

Another insurrection seems to be brewing in Spain. The *Daily News* has published a proclamation issued by a revolutionary junta which promises, when this next outbreak takes place, to make a clean sweep of the Bourbons and their adherents. Hitherto all the great political movements in Spain have been directed by military leaders. Narvaez, Espartero, O'Donnell, were all distinguished as Generals before they undertook to serve their country (after their own fashion) in the Cabinet. Manuel Concha, the late rival of O'Donnell, is a General; so also is Prim, the head of the insurrection of last year. When Prim took up arms just a twelvemonth ago—issuing at the same time an unavailing invitation to the Spanish people to follow his example—he did not proclaim any fixed set of principles. He merely announced that he was ready to undertake the government of his country, and that it would be carried on under his direction very much better than it had been under that of O'Donnell or any of his predecessors. Unfortunately, in the country of Queen Isabella it is easy at any time to prove that the existing Ministry has misconducted itself in a variety of ways. Constitutionalism would seem to have been introduced into Spain for the express purpose of bringing that form of government into contempt. Minister succeeds Minister—that is to say, General succeeds General—and, under whatever political colours they may govern, all succeed alike in disconcerting the country. This is not wonderful, considering, as we were before observing, that all the Spanish political chiefs come from the army—about the worst political school that can possibly be imagined. We can quite believe, as the members of the secret junta assert in their recently-issued manifesto, that many patriotic Spaniards are convinced of the necessity of a fundamental change—dangerous as fundamental changes invariably are. Indeed, in a country where the aristocracy has lost all power and prestige, where there is no important middle class to take its place, and where all moral as well as physical force—the one being but the shadow of the other—resides in the army, it is difficult to understand how any movement deserving the name of national can take place at all. However, some new sort of disturbance is evidently meditated at Madrid; and the well-written document issued by the insurrectionary body who are preparing it does not point to any particular General as the destined saviour of his country. Spain has been so often saved by Generals, that it would at least be interesting to see what good a revolution directed by civilians could do for her.

THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN REGENT'S PARK.

FORTY-ONE bodies have now been recovered from the lake in Regent's Park, although it is feared that there are still several more in the water, as inquiries continue to be made about persons who have been absent from their homes since the day on which the unhappy event occurred. It does not necessarily follow, however, that all must be drowned who are missing, as several persons at first supposed to be lost have since turned up alive and well.

THE OCCURRENCE.

By few events has public feeling in London been so profoundly stirred as by this mournful occurrence; and this painful feeling has been intensified, instead of lessened, as the details became known. The ice, as far as can be gathered from the statements of survivors, of lookers-on, and of those whose duty called them to be present, was, in the early part of the day, sufficiently firm. It was, however, ice which had been formed in one thick coat, but by successive frosts and thaws, with here and there a light draping of snow. Its very substance was therefore deceptive; and by some it is alleged that bubbles showed themselves in the ice, upon which the action of the sun in the middle of the day told with destructive effect. The fact also is now established that the park-keepers, paying more regard to the necessities of the waterfowl than to the security of the skating public, broke the ice for some distance along the edges, thereby destroying the connection of the central field with the shore, and facilitating the entry of a body of air between the water and its solid covering, which contributed at the critical moment to blow up and scatter the ice into fragments. It is alleged, on the part of the Royal Humane Society, that, by their officers, placards, &c., they gave timely and continuous notice of the dangerous condition of the surface to which skaters, sliders, and promenaders were trusting themselves; and certain it is that large numbers of these,

either yielding to advice, or themselves remarking ugly symptoms, withdrew to terra firma. A body of persons, however, commonly estimated at 300, and in no quarter at less than 150, was actually upon the ice when it gave way, a few minutes after four o'clock. Unlike ordinary fractures, it was not first a hole at one particular point, enlarged by the struggles of those in the water, and the rushing to and fro of others as yet free from immersion, nor was it one longitudinal crack. Over an area of several hundred feet the ice seemed all to give way together. At one and the same moment the whole of the persons moving over this extensive field found themselves struggling for life, literally without a resting-place for the soles of their feet.

Bystanders declare that it was impossible for a moment to believe that the occurrence could be real—that it was not the result of some optical illusion. The change, as by magic, from high spirits, healthy exercise, and hearty enjoyment, to disaster, despair, and death was too horrible, too crushing for the mind to take in at once. It was not till the wild cry for "Help!" rose from those who were slipping inch by inch to the grave that men roused themselves to the exertions which the extremity demanded. What means of affording help were within their reach? Few, indeed; for appliances that may meet every requirement of half a dozen cases are valueless where the cases must be counted by hundreds. It is said by some that the society's rope had been cut, because it interfered with a slide, and that time had to be lost in knotting it when it was most required; by others, that particular icemen did not venture into the water. The society allege that their men were steady and sober, and that a trained hand could do more by staying on the bank and throwing ropes judiciously for others to pull than by plunging in to the assistance of an individual struggling. Certain it is that the spectacle was appalling; not in two or three, but by dozens and twenties, human figures were struggling in every posture. Some tried to swim in the frozen water; some lay on their chests upon the ice; some were clutching at floating fragments. Of others, only the hands or arms, waving wildly, were to be seen above the surface. Many of the bystanders did their duty nobly, rushing into the pulpy, numbing mass of ice and water to the rescue of those who were nearest shore. Several instances of peculiar bravery of this kind are recorded; and that the service was not without its dangers may be inferred from the fact that one of the cases needing most careful attention in the infirmary of the workhouse was a lad named Kane, who had previously been instrumental in saving two lives. It happened most opportunely that at the very moment the alarm was given one hundred men of the D division of police were returning from a special church service at Marylebone, and were at once draughted to the spot where their services were so much needed.

How terribly excited the spectators became by the scene may be gathered from the circumstance that in their eagerness to find anything which the drowning might cling to, at much personal risk a large branch of a tree was torn down and flung as far as possible across the water. The pleasure-boats at the upper end of the lake were thought of as a means of rescue, and proved happily instrumental in saving several lives; but a passage through the ice had to be broken for them before they could approach the spot, and this, of course, was a work of time. The usual oars were valueless for any purpose except to be pushed along as spars to catch at.

SCENE AT MARYLEBONE WORKHOUSE.

So much has been said from time to time, and especially of late, on the subject of workhouse mismanagement, that it is a gratification to find there is a bright side to the picture, and that an instance can be pointed out in which one of these institutions was fully up to its work. Mr. Douglas, the master of the Marylebone Workhouse, happening to be in Regent's Park at the time the accident occurred, perceived that from its dimensions the hospital marquee and staff of the Royal Humane Society must be overwhelmed, and accordingly communicated with Mr. Obree, the surgeon, and with the superintendent of police, undertaking that if the sufferers as they were brought to land were wrapped in blankets, put into cabs, and sent down to the Marylebone Workhouse, which lies close to York-gate, all the resources of that establishment should be available for their succour. Dr. Randall and Mr. Fuller, being instantly communicated with, had beds prepared at the workhouse and the staff of nurses in waiting, so that immediately the patients arrived they were attended with promptitude and skill. The master and matron, the doctors, and other officials of the workhouse have received the thanks both of the guardians and of the Poor-Law Board for their services. It was remarked as a singular feature in all the worst cases, that instead of the ordinary symptoms of persons recovering from drowning, the patients were delirious, and in some instances violently so, requiring to be held down in bed. One lad fancied that he was engaged in a swimming-match with a companion, and kept striking out vigorously, and encouraging the other to persevere. Excessive fright and long exposure to cold are supposed to have been the predisposing causes to this delirium. The patients, on coming to themselves, concurred very generally in their statements as to the numbers of those in their vicinity when the accident happened. Each had seen "three or four go down" near him; several of them were making for the shore when they themselves were immersed, having noticed that the ice was bad and much water coming up through it; some of them remembering nothing but giving a few shrieks; others lost consciousness on being taken into the boats.

The most painful duty devolving upon the officials of the workhouse on the Wednesday after the occurrence—few, if any of whom, had any sleep during the night—was to answer the thousands of inquiries for missing friends, and to witness the despair of those who came to identify the dead, of which at dark there were eight lying in the workhouse. In the miserable hours of night many affecting incidents occurred, and these, doubtless, represented but a tithe of the wretchedness spread like a cloud over the metropolis. Universal testimony is borne to the kindness and consideration of the workhouse officials; as far as it was possible to distinguish, the merely inquisitive were excluded, but free entrance was given to all who had a right to desire it. As soon as it was possible to ascertain the names of the sufferers, information was sent to their homes as guardedly as possible. However seriously at the moment the doctors might think of their condition, it was represented to relatives and friends—at the outset, at all events—that "they could not return home that night, because their clothes were wet." Afterwards, of course, they were afforded access, where this was prudent, to their bedsides.

Morning dawned, and with it came fresh horrors. All who could be saved had, of course, been saved the night before; but nighttime interrupted the operations before most of those known to have been drowned could be recovered. It was hoped, rather than expected, that the number of ten—consisting of eight lying at the Marylebone Workhouse and two at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, might represent the weight of the calamity. But a few hours' labour at the scene of the accident showed that the measure of the loss had been more truly taken at the time of the occurrence. Body after body was carried down by the police, till at three o'clock the number was more than thirty. Many of these were well and even fashionably dressed young men, with watches and sums of money in their pockets. Some were mere boys. Of those belonging to the better classes nearly all had skates upon their feet. The countenances of all taken out of the water the night before were not greatly discomposed, nor were their clothes dirtied; but in the case of those brought to the surface on the Wednesday not only did their clothes show traces of the mud at the bottom of the lake, but their features wore a harder and more painful expression. In many cases, also, the skin was purpled, or almost blackened, as if with frostbites. To stand in or near the dead-house was more trying than to witness the actual arrivals; for a loud scream was invariably the announcement that some unhappy father, mother, sister, or wife had found but too truly the object of their search.

DRAWING THE LAKE.

It was a relief to quit this house of woe, even for the spot where the search was being prosecuted. At first it seemed, from the aspect of the place, in the last degree improbable that such an accident

could have occurred. The ice was frozen hard and thick—so obetinate, in fact, was its resistance that fifteen, sometimes twenty, minutes' hard work was requisite with tools suitable for the purpose before a narrow passage could be made allowing a boat to advance of its own length. Seven boats, punts, or skiffs, were engaged during the day at the portion of the lake where it was believed that the majority had fallen in, and it was as much as the men in them could do to make and keep sufficient openings clear for the purpose of using the drags. Along the edges of the lake others co-operated by cutting and breaking pieces of ice as far out as they could reach, or by floating away fragments from the tracks and narrow canals left by the passage of the boats. Lying upon the hard frozen ground, such pieces of ice looked like heavy stones; and many of the spectators sighed as they reflected that the same power of resistance to the search put forth by the ice of to-day in the ice of yesterday would have rendered the search unnecessary. Looking closely at the surface, traces of the previous day's catastrophes were discernible. Great flaws and scars in the surface, knit together by fresh ice, indicated, like badly healed wounds, that there must have been some violent disruption of the surface, and the ice itself preserved some records of its own treachery in the hats and oranges, and in one part a lady's muff, which, once afloat, were now congealed with the solid mass. Up to nine or ten o'clock, with the exception of the police, Humane Society men, &c., the inclosure was left to its legitimate occupants, the outside public taking its stand on the elevated ridge at the north-east side of the lake. After that hour, however, the mass of people outside the railings, becoming excited by the fact that bodies were being found in such numbers, clambered over the barriers, and even invaded, on the other side of the water, the private grounds attached to the Holme. At one or two o'clock on every side of the lake there was a wall of human faces and figures, in some places six, in others twenty, deep. Many of these were watching with an interest only too real the progress of the search, but the vast majority unmistakably belonged to the class for which "rough" has become the accepted designation. The air seems to carry to this class, as it does to birds of particular habits, the scent of blood. A dreadful accident happens one day, and the next there they are in thousands gazing upon the victims. It is only fair towards the men themselves to say that, as a rule, they seemed touched and softened by the magnitude and character of the calamity, and that comparatively few remarks unworthy of the place, or of the scene, were indulged in. But there they were, following the instincts of their tribe. In the face of a biting wind, and occasionally of thin drifts of snow, they kept their ground for hours, watching with an interest that never slackened that solemn quarrying of the ice with hatchet, pickaxe, stone-hammer, and mallet, and the still more dreadful feeling along the bottom for something that, when it was found, came up stark and stiff. As often as one of these shapeless masses, more like trunks of trees than anything else, rose to the side of the boat, and was tenderly lifted in, that ghastly sound which is not a sob, nor a gasp, nor a groan, nor a yell, but a compound of all four, the cry of the British mob, went up in the air. Many times, too many times, this cry was heard during the day. Strong men and little boys—the artisan, the itinerant fruit-vender, and the poor little Blue-coat boy—were fished up one after the other by those awful hooks. As soon as they were landed they were laid upon the grass to be identified; if not recognised within a certain time, or, indeed, whether or not, they were carried off on stretchers to be added to the lamentable total at the Marylebone Workhouse.

Day after day the process of searching the ornamental water in Regent's Park continued; and, judging from the number of spectators present, especially on Sunday afternoon, the late calamity must have excited very widespread interest. Every position from which a view of the operations upon the lake could be obtained was crowded with lookers-on, who, in reaching the islands and other prominent points, betrayed their usual indifference to risk. The police and icemen warned them as long as warning seemed of the slightest avail, and then lay by for a time and waited the result. Those who had reached solid ground there was little use in disturbing; but hundreds of men and lads, not content with quietly looking on, engaged in skating and sliding close to the points where the drags were at work, and the ice was actually being broken and pulled to shore. The secretary and several members of the committee of the Humane Society at once went upon the ice, and, by dint of expostulations and remonstrances, induced the majority of those present to quit a position so full of danger. Numbers, however, chiefly lads, proved refractory, and had to be cleared off by a concerted movement of the police and park-keepers, who succeeded for the remainder of the day in keeping the ice clear. In running off to avoid the keepers, six lads fell in near the side, and their well-merited ducking obtained for them little commiseration from the spectators.

SEARCH BY DIVING.

There was this novel feature about the proceedings of Saturday and Sunday, that the search with hooks and drags, though still persevered in, became second in importance to that of the diver. Suggestions had been offered some days before that an agency of this kind ought to be employed; but nothing practical was done in the matter till Mr. Heinke solicited and obtained from the authorities permission to conduct the investigation with his own machinery and at his own expense. Diving-dresses are not matters of every-day use with the general public, and they may, accordingly, be excused for any want of acquaintance with the name of the gentleman by whom the generous offer was made. But all who busy themselves in the construction of bridges, docks, or other works under water know Heinke's diving-apparatus as a name of power. With its aid mails and cargo were recovered from the wreck of the Colombo just as easily as watches were lately picked out of the Thames near Blackfriars Bridge. From the mail-room of the Malabar, sunk off Point de Galle, £300,000 were procured by its instrumentality—a feat in accomplishing which it was necessary to cut through half-inch iron plates and to work in 9 ft. of sand.

There is always great curiosity to see a diver dress, and, as from the nature of things his toilet in Regent's Park was performed somewhat publicly, a short description may be interesting of the means which enable one man to sustain life and walk about for hours with comparative ease in the same sheet of water and at a similar temperature to that which in a few minutes proved fatal to scores of his fellow-creatures. The diver first removed his shoes, and then drew on two pairs of long white woollen stockings reaching nearly to his hips, and pulled a thick shirt of corresponding material over his shoulders and all his ordinary clothes. Flannel knee-breeches kept the other garments comfortably together; and the addition of a red nightcap doubled the likeness to one of the white-jacketed sailors that figure largely in Dutch seapieces. The diving dress proper was next assumed. Take two of the stoutest waterproof capes, and sew a sheet of indiarubber between—that is the material; draw it on like a sack for running races in, save that each leg has its own separate pouch to fit into, instead of one common sack for both feet—and that is the shape. Heavy boots, with substantial soles of lead, complete the equipment of the lower man; the upper, of course, must be securely cased. Round what would be in the parallel case the mouth of the sack, and what in this instance forms the neck of the diving-dress, there are a number of brass studs, upon which, with the aid of screws, fit brass plates shaped to the shoulders, and eventually a cuirass, about half the length, back and front, of those in use among the Household troops. This cuirass closes in the whole of the upper part of the body as far as the neck, which is left exposed, very much as if the wearer were about to be guillotined—an impression which is, if possible, strengthened during the subsequent screwing on of the gigantic headpiece. One can imagine that it must have formed an anxious study to the original diving-dressmaker how to leave the hands and arms free, and yet to prevent the water from entering at those extremities. In the present day the difficulty is surmounted by terminating the sleeves of the diving-dress with stout cuffs of vulcanised indiarubber, tapered nearly to a point. It requires the violent efforts of two men, an assistant pulling open the cuff, and the

wearer thrusting his arm forward as if he were delivering a knock-down blow, before the hands can be got through, one at a time. A belt round the waist with a stout knife in a leather sheath, a line to attach to the ladder when he goes down, that he may know the point from which he started, and so calculate the distance traversed, two 50 lb. weights fastened to his shoulders, another line looped round his body and called "the life-line," with which to signal to those above, or, in case of urgent need, to be pulled up by, and the diver's equipment is complete in all essentials but one. Till the last moment the glass plate in front of his mouth is not inserted, and the pumping-apparatus must be in regular action before this is screwed home. Then the diver steps on to his ladder, one of his comrades surveys him from head to heel to see that all is right, gives him a friendly tap of dismissal on the helmet—a piece of diving freemasonry never omitted—and down he goes. Nothing but a faint sighing noise has been heard from the air-pump till the helmet reaches the surface of the water, and then a rush and bubbling strikes the ear, and the surface of the water in a limited circle leaps and dances as if some large fish were sporting about near the top of the water. The helmet, at first as bright as silver, seems as it sinks to become oxidised, and grows darker and darker in colour till it gradually recedes from sight altogether. Wherever the surface of the water was not covered with ice the track of the diver could be traced by the bubbling, and even where the ice was thin the air could be seen endeavouring to escape in large milk-white globules. As the man plodded about, now with his helmet close to or above the surface, and now, from the length of line paid out, evidently down in holes 16 ft. or 17 ft. in depth, and at a distance of 40 ft. or 50 ft. from the punt, some pardonable uneasiness was felt by many persons on his account, remembering that with all his harness on he carried close on 200 lb. weight, and that the bottom of the lake was overlaid with thick, soft mud. It was explained, however, that the diver had at his command three modes of escape from any difficulty down below. He could either close the valve and he would float, cut off the weights and he would float, or he could signal to those above to pull him up by the life-line. There were three divers in Regent's Park on Sunday and the day before, who each went down in turn, remaining below from twelve to twenty-five minutes at a time, and in the first instance explored thoroughly that portion of the ornamental water where the great mass of persons was seen to go down. The result of their investigations showed the care with which this spot had been swept by the drags, not a single body being recovered by the divers. On the other hand, the minuteness of the search made by these men themselves was proved by their bringing up hatchets, hammers, a large wooden mallet, and a piece of iron wire dropped out of different boats in the course of the previous day's ice-breaking. They also found at some distance from each other two pairs of skates, perfectly new, and strapped together, suggesting that the owners had dropped them in running away. The divers were, of course, anxiously questioned as to the state of things below. They described the bottom as composed of soft, yielding, black mud—as, indeed, was plainly to be seen from their boots and clothing when they came to the surface—and into this they generally sank to their knees, and sometimes considerably deeper. Except where the water was very shallow, they could see nothing—"it was like being in a dark room;" but the men did not complain of the temperature. In fact, on coming to the surface, and being exposed while resting for a few minutes to the cutting north-east wind, one of them told his companions to "Screw him up again, and let him be off, for it was warmer down below." They all complained at first of their hands being cold, though these were protected by waterproof gloves, but said that the feeling wore off with the exercise.

EMPTYING THE LAKE.

On Wednesday morning the authorities took into their own hands the clearing away of the incumbrances from the surface of the Broad Water. Several park-keepers and others in boats were employed in breaking up the ice, and this, as it drifted ashore, was stacked away by a hundred men employed by the park superintendent, acting by direction of Lord John Manners. The amount of resistance was naturally lessened by the recent mildness of the weather, and the ice yielded readily to the force of the rammers. At the close of the day the long-island side of the Broad Water, and a considerable portion opposite Sussex-terrace, were quite free. In addition to the operations on the lake a number of men were employed in excavating a trench immediately opposite Cornwall-terrace, on the south side of the park. This trench, which will be 12 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 16 ft. deep, will communicate with the private sewer of South-villa, joining one of the main sewers in Park-place; and by its instrumentality it is proposed to empty the lake, with the ultimate intention, no doubt, of making improvements similar to those effected in St. James's Park. Meanwhile, the divers carefully explored the water adjoining the Holme grounds, and that part lying north of the small island and Mr. Burton's property, but did not succeed in recovering anything from the bottom. So convinced was one gentleman of the safety of Mr. Henke's apparatus that, having only seen it the day before, he put it on and went down experimentally. The fishermen's nets were used, but without bringing up anything more than a number of remarkably fine carp, which were immediately restored to the lake.

Ensign R. E. Scott, of the 20th Middlesex Rifles, who was one of those who lost his life in the accident of Tuesday week, was buried with military honours on Tuesday afternoon. Representatives of various metropolitan volunteer corps attended, as did a large number of clerks from the railway clearing house, in which the deceased gentleman held an appointment.

SALE OF PRIOR PARK, NEAR BATH.—Prior Park, near Bath, is about to be purchased by the Duchess of Leeds and Lady Herbert of Lea, both of whom are converts to Romanism. The building was originally built by Ralph Allen, the Squire Allworthy in Fielding's "Tom Jones," and was of Bath stone. It was here that Pope wrote his "Essay on Man." Early in the present century Prior Park passed into the hands of Roman Catholics, who dedicated it to St. Peter and St. Paul, and used it as a sort of college. When in their hands half of the building was destroyed by fire, and has never since been rebuilt. The next tenant was Mr. Thomson, who married a sister of the late Earl of Gainsborough, who was a Dissenter. In the meantime the owner of Prior Park, who was a Roman Catholic, died, leaving the estate to his Church; but, his will being set aside by the Statute of Mortmain, the sons of the testator, who were Anglicans, did not carry out the wishes of their father. It is from these two sons that the noble ladies, each of whom has given £10,000 for the purpose, are going to purchase the estate.

A BISHOP'S FULL PANOPLY.—Mrs. Proudie always went to church on Sunday evenings, making a point of hearing three services and three sermons every Sunday of her life. On week-days she seldom heard any, having an idea that week-day services were an invention of the High Church enemy, and that they should therefore be vehemently discouraged. Services on saints' days she regarded as rank Papacy, and had been known to accuse a clergyman's wife, to her face, of idolatry, because the poor lady had dated a letter St. John's Eve. Mr. Thumble, on this Sunday evening, was successful in finding the Bishop at home and alone, but he was not lucky enough to get away before Mrs. Proudie returned. The Bishop, perhaps, thought that the story of the failure had better reach his wife's ears from Mr. Thumble's lips than from his own. "Well, Mr. Thumble," said Mrs. Proudie, walking into the study, armed in her full Sunday-evening winter panoply, in which she had just descended from her carriage. The church which Mrs. Proudie attended in the evening was nearly half a mile from the palace, and the coachman and groom never got a holiday on Sunday night. She was gorgeous in a dark-brown silk dress of awful stiffness and terrible dimensions; and on her shoulders she wore a short cloak of velvet and fur, very handsome withal, but so swelling in its proportions on all sides as necessarily to create more of dismay than of admiration in the mind of any ordinary man. And her bonnet was a monstrous helmet with the beaver up, displaying the awful face of the warrior, always ready for combat, and careless to guard itself from attack. The large contorted bows which she wore were as a grisly crest upon her casque—beautiful, doubtless, but majestic and fear-compelling. In her hand she carried her armour complete—a prayer-book, a Bible, and a book of hymns. These the footman had brought for her to the study door, but she had thought fit to enter her husband's room with them in her own custody.—"The Last Chronicle of Barset," No. 7. By Anthony Trollope.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There has been a reconstruction of the French Ministry, consequent upon Constitutional changes. All the Ministers placed their resignations in the hands of the Emperor on Saturday. M. Rouher retains his functions as Minister of State, and is, moreover, appointed Minister of Finance, in place of M. Fould, whose resignation is accepted. Marshal Niel is appointed Minister of War. Admiral Rigault de Genouilly is named Minister of Marine, and M. de Forcade la Roquette Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works. M. Béhic, who held the latter post, has been made Senator and Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. The Emperor has not accepted the resignation of the Ministers of State, Justice, the Imperial Household, Public Instruction, Interior, or Foreign Affairs, nor that of the Minister President of the Council of State; and these Ministers, therefore, retain their respective portfolios.

The minds of all in Paris, and indeed throughout France, are occupied in examining and discussing the scope and value of the new reforms; and, according to the observations of Paris correspondents, the general verdict passed upon them is one of condemnation, "without extenuating circumstances." The abolition of the debate on the Address, and the selection of men as Ministers to carry out these reforms who are notorious for their opposition to everything that is liberal in government, gives rise to distrust and suspicion. In seeming reply to the expressed dissatisfaction with the suppression of the debate on the Address, the *Moniteur* of Monday says:—"The Government is strongly desirous of submitting to the appreciation of the great bodies of the State the motives which determine its conduct in foreign policy. The suppression of the debate on the Address will not delay explanations, since the Government has decided to accept from the opening of the Session questions upon foreign affairs."

SPAIN.

The following picture of affairs in Spain is given by a Madrid correspondent:—

This capital would present a great change in its physiognomy to visitors who have not seen it within the last two months. A vast system of espionage is carried on everywhere, and especially at the places of public resort. In my last letter I informed you that a secret junta had been established in Madrid, and that it had issued an incendiary proclamation to the people. Two clandestine newspapers have made their appearance since—the *Alerta* and the *Retamporgo* (the Lightning). Both of them proclaim the downfall of the Bourbons and the advent of the national sovereignty. The second print upholds, besides, the alliance of the Progressists with the Liberal party. To prevent as much as possible the circulation of the proclamation and of the two clandestine papers, the Government has ordered all the proprietors of hotels, coffee-houses, and restaurants to strictly follow the following instructions, under pain of the severest penalties:—As soon as the lady at the counter sees someone reading a letter, a newspaper, or any document, she is to go straight to the customer and request him to show her what he is reading. If the Government is concerned in any way in the document, she is to make a sign to the proprietor, who will detain the customer while his wife is calling in a police agent!

In fact, the Government reigns only by terror, and both the Queen and her Ministers have burnt their ships, as to the Moderate Liberal and Constitutional parties, which cannot be conciliated any longer. Both the Crown and the Government must stand by or fall through the reaction and absolutism they have revived.

The Minister of Justice has just removed from active service the two Judges of Caniza and Canéca, and it seems that his Excellency will take more steps in the same direction. This violation of the rights of the magistracy—in Spain the Judges are appointed for life—is almost without precedent in the history of Spain.

I learn that the Government intends to summon General O'Donnell to return forthwith to Spain. I am even told that the order to that effect has been sent to Paris, but that the Spanish Legation has been unable to serve the said summons, because the Marshal is nowhere to be found. You see that the Duke of Tetuan, who was only yesterday, so to say, the bitterest enemy of General Prim, is now treated on the same footing with his adversary by Marshal Narvaez, who seems bent upon reconciling the extreme faction with the Moderate party. Indeed, it is said that the reconciliation is already an accomplished fact, and that a rising is to take place through the whole country a few days before the elections, which are to take place on the 16th of March next. However, direct information from France leads me to think that the Alliance of the Moderate Party with the Party of Action, having Prim and Olazaga at its head, is premature, and that O'Donnell recommends his friends to wait a little longer before coming to a resolution.

ITALY.

Signor Scialoja has now laid before the Italian Chambers his complete financial statement. With reference to the means of covering the deficit of 185,000,000 lire, the Minister proposed to effect a saving of 85,000,000 lire by various financial modifications and a reorganisation of the system of taxation. One of these measures of financial reform would be to intrust the payment of State pensions to the Bank of Deposits, which would result in a saving to the Treasury of 17,000,000 lire; while a reform of the registry tax will effect a reduction of 16,000,000 lire. The Minister would propose a scheme for reforming the tax on landed and movable property, and would shortly introduce a bill for taxing certain manufactures, which will yield a revenue of from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 lire. Another 30,000,000 lire would be produced by taxing mills. Signor Scialoja then adverted to the progressive increase of the public revenue and the gradual decrease of the expenditure, which decrease will amount to 60,000,000 lire in 1880, at which period he showed that the revenue and expenditure of the State will be in equilibrium. At present the Minister declared it to be necessary to have recourse to extraordinary means to make up the deficit of 100,000,000 lire still remaining, after covering 85,000,000 lire by the above-mentioned financial reforms. He pointed out that a loan would be impossible under present circumstances, and that the Government must therefore have recourse to the ecclesiastical property. Respecting the relations between the State and the Church, Signor Scialoja stated that they would be modified in such a manner as to restore full liberty to the Church and settle the question of the ecclesiastical property. A bill would be brought forward taxing the ecclesiastical property to the amount of 600,000,000 lire, which would suffice to cover the annual deficit until the period at which a financial equilibrium should be established. The Minister trusted that the clergy would receive this scheme favourably, and that, in entering within the pale of the common law, all pending questions between Church and State would be terminated.

PRUSSIA.

The festival in celebration of the coronation took place on Sunday. After the announcement of the names of those upon whom orders had been conferred the King attended Divine service, and subsequently gave a state dinner, at which his Majesty proposed a toast to "The Army and the Entire Fatherland." The King has since been unwell.

The Plenipotentiaries of the North German States at the Conference, which are being held in Berlin, signed the Federal Treaty on Monday.

BAVARIA.

In Saturday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies Prince Hohenlohe explained the programme of the new Ministry, which, he declared, does not propose the formation of a South-Western Confederacy under the influence of a foreign Power, nor a Southern Confederacy under Austria. On the contrary, the programme of the Government aims at close union with Prussia, constitutional alliance with the other German States, with full reservation of the sovereign rights of Bavaria, and the creation of a strength that shall command respect by means of reforms in the army and the development of the liberties of the country.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has addressed an autograph letter to Count von Larisch, relieving him, at his own request, of his functions as Minister of Finance and conferring upon him the grand cross of the Order of Leopold. Baron von Beke, Under-Secretary of State, is provisionally intrusted with the direction of the Ministry of Finance. It is believed that, whether an understanding be effected between

Austria and Hungary or not, the Hungarian Diet will shortly be prorogued. In the event of an understanding being arrived at, the preliminary arrangements of the Hungarian Ministry, which would then be appointed, would involve the prorogation of the Diet, and a prorogation would be equally necessitated by the establishment of a provisorium in case the efforts to bring about an agreement should prove unsuccessful.

Count Andrássy has declared himself willing to undertake the formation of a Hungarian Ministry. His programme is identical with that embodied in the propositions made by the Committee of Fifteen relative to the future relations between Austria and Hungary, with the additional demand that the Imperial patent upon the reorganisation of the army be withdrawn. It appears that the Austrian Government will make its definitive resolution dependent upon the vote of the Committee of Sixty-seven; but it is considered probable that the wishes of Hungary will be attended to.

RUSSIA.

Prince Gortschakoff has addressed a circular to the Russian representatives containing an answer to the recent Papal documents as to the persecution of Catholics by Russia. Prince Gortschakoff denies the charges, and says that the initiative in the rupture between Rome and Russia was taken by the former.

THE CANDIAN INSURRECTION.

Intelligence from Candia, via Athens, announces that Mustapha Pacha was preparing to attack Sphakia on the side of Askafos and from the sea. The Cretan General Assembly had forwarded an address to the Powers requesting them to send an agent to the island in order to judge of its unhappy condition, and to protect the inhabitants, who desired annexation to Greece. Advice from Candia through Greek sources state that the insurgents had been victorious in an engagement with 5000 Turks near Heraklion. They had also prevented the disembarkation of Turkish troops at Sphakia and Selino. The same advices confirm a report that a Turkish frigate had opened fire upon some Cretan families who were waiting to be taken off the island by a foreign vessel.

SWEDEN.

The Swedish Chambers were opened on Saturday. The Speech from the Throne indicated a strong desire for internal progress and external peace, and repudiated any desire of aggression by asserting that the present boundaries of Sweden are her natural frontiers.

THE UNITED STATES.

At last we have from America such information as enables us to form a distinct idea of what has been done and what is proposed to be done towards the impeachment of the President. It turns out that the President's veto of the Negro Suffrage Bill had nothing to do with the impeachment; for, in caucus, several days before the veto message was received, his opponents had determined to arraign him; and the requisite order was made by the House of Representatives, on the morning of the 7th inst., before Mr. Johnson's written objections to the Negro Suffrage Bill had reached the Senate, to which they were addressed. The two Houses of Congress met, after their holiday recess, on Monday morning, the 7th of this month; but on the previous Saturday night the members of the dominant majority had held their caucus for the purpose of determining the question of impeachment. It is apparent from the published proceedings of the meeting that the difficulties in the way of conducting the prosecution to a successful issue during the present Congress were found insuperable. Although the famous Radical leader, Mr. Stevens, was disposed to make light of the obstacles, Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, demonstrated that the attempt must inevitably fail. The caucus yielded to the views of Mr. Bingham, and resolved that it would be futile to commence the impeachment at that time with the view of continuing it in the next Congress. The members were influenced by the fact that, as one third of the present Senate must go out on March 4, the next Senate would be a tribunal essentially different from the present, and would be compelled to commence *de novo*. The final conclusion was, that Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, should move the resolutions on Monday morning; that they should be adopted and referred to the Judiciary Committee, which should prepare all the preliminary measures and submit its conclusions to the caucus before reporting them to the House, and that the caucus should then decide what must next be done. This method of proceeding was adopted by a large majority, and was carried by the vote of the House on Monday morning. The Judiciary Committee are now engaged in taking testimony and in preparing the articles; and it is conceded on all hands that during the present Session no attempt will be made to arraign Mr. Johnson.

The President had vetoed the District of Columbia Impartial Suffrage Bill, which both Houses subsequently passed over the veto.

We have a short but important announcement through the Atlantic Cable—namely, that on Friday week the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the test oath (enacted by Congress) is unconstitutional. This is a great blow to the Radical party.

A strong movement had begun in Illinois, participated in by moderate Republicans and Democrats, for the nomination of General Grant for the presidency in 1868. General Grant is a native of Illinois, and is at present the most popular man whose name is mentioned for the next presidency.

MEXICO.

The accounts from Mexico give anything but a cheerful view of the prospects of the country. One party is warring against another, and no one seems able to gain any decided advantage. Fighting is reported from various quarters, not only between the Imperialists and the Republicans, but among different factions of the latter themselves. Ortega, who claims the presidency in preference to Juarez, is said to be gaining adherents.

General Bazaine is stated to have informed the troops under his command that those who are desirous of enlisting in the service of the Emperor Maximilian are at liberty to do so.

THE AZTECS.—Few can have read without regret, if not disgust, of the "marriage of the Aztecs." To perpetuate a race of such unhappy deformities would be a misfortune. They are neither more nor less than diminutive idiots. The bird-like features which made them noticeable are quite characteristic of one group of idiots—namely, those with fairly-developed cerebella, but very diminutive cerebra. The idiots with less imperfect cerebra lose this striking peculiarity of profile. Those, of course, who are hydrocephalic (as many are) have no trace of it. All the idiots with diminutive brains are under the normal stature, but they present many degrees of this want of development of the body. The "Aztecs" are remarkable as suggesting the culmination of idiocy with dwarfism. In the Royal Society's volume of *Transactions* for 1863 will be found a valuable paper by Mr. Marshall, of University College Hospital, giving an account of the brain of a microcephalic idiot who died about the time when the "Aztecs" were exhibited, and whose features are particularly described as "resembling those of the male Aztec;" but he had a white skin, and was less nimble. He died in Hanwell.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE WORKING CLASSES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.—On Monday afternoon and evening a conference of persons connected with various Christian churches, and a large number of the representative workmen of London, was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, for the purpose of discussing the reasons why so large a proportion of the skilled artisans refrain from attendance at the recognised places of public worship, either belonging to the Established Church or to Nonconformists. Among other persons present were Mr. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., the Rev. Canon Miller, Rev. R. Maguire, Rev. Henry Solly, Rev. Mr. Killick, Rev. Newman Hall, Rev. Mr. Maurice, Rev. Mr. Neville, Mr. J. M. Ludson, Mr. J. McGregor, Mr. George Potter, and a large number of workmen of various opinions, who had all been invited by ticket. Altogether about 300 persons were present. The Rev. E. Miall occupied the chair, and the Rev. Mr. White and Mr. C. Miall acted as secretaries. After an introductory address from the chair, in which all present were invited to express their feelings and opinions without reserve, the discussion was opened at three o'clock, each speaker being allowed ten minutes, and concluded at ten p.m., half an hour having been allowed for refreshment. About twenty working men spoke, and the main reason assigned by them for the alienation of the working classes from the religious institutions of the country was the general want of sympathy on the part of the clergy with the efforts of the working men to improve their social and political condition. The conference was brought to a close without any formal resolution being passed; but the chairman said, on the part of those who had called the conference, that they were much pleased with its results and the explanations which had taken place.

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK.—LOSS OF A LIFE-BOAT MANNED BY ENGLISHMEN OFF CALAIS.

A HEARTRENDING scene occurred the evening of the 17th inst., near the entrance of Calais harbour, by which a vessel was totally lost with all hands, as well as several English seamen who volunteered to go off to the wreck in the life-boat. The night, though very stormy—a furious gale was blowing from the north, and the whole line of coast was lashed with a terrible heavy sea—was clear and fine, and the moon shone very bright. About five o'clock a cry ran along the harbour that a ship had run ashore near the west pier, and the crew were lashed in the rigging. Captain Wale, of the General Steam Navigation Company's steamer Triton, which was detained in the harbour in consequence of the bad weather, with his crew proceeded to the pier head, and were followed by the crew of the Pioneer (Dover) steamer, and some belonging to other English ships in the harbour. On reaching the end of the pier, the wreck was found to be about 200 yards distant. The vessel proved to be the *Trois Scurs*, Captain Chauvelon, of St. Nazaire, from Rotterdam, laden with a cargo of manganese. The cries of her crew for help could be plainly heard on the pier. The English people cheered the poor fellows by the assurance that assistance would be sent, and all hands started off for the port life-boat, which is stationed on the sands some distance off. It was got out and with difficulty dragged through the snow, which lay very deep, to the edge of the sands, where the Triton's crew volunteered to man her; but the French authorities of the port refused, and, after some delay, six Frenchmen put off in it and made for the wreck; but when half way to the vessel they turned to the shore and abandoned the shipwrecked people. The English sailors, on seeing this, got ferried across the harbour to the East Pier, where another life-boat is stationed, which was presented to the Calais authorities by the English Government, some time since. Here, however, another delay occurred; for it was securely locked up, and the party having the custody of the key could not be found. At length it was determined to take forcible possession of it; and, by tearing down the railings the boat was safely launched. It was instantly manned by English volunteers, who pulled off with an alacrity and zeal which called forth loud cheers from those collected on the piers; for by that time a great number of people had assembled. The boat rode gallantly as she shot towards the wreck, when, just as she was preparing to bring up to the vessel, a heavy sea struck the boat and threw it bottom upwards, throwing the whole of the brave fellows, thirteen in number, into the raging sea. A fearful shriek rose from the people on the pier, and a scene of great excitement ensued to do all that was possible to save life, for some of the men could be seen holding on to the life-boat, others were supporting themselves on the oars, and others were attempting to swim to the shore. A party of English sailors belonging to the Triton and Pioneer steamer here made for the first life-boat which had been abandoned by the Frenchmen as useless, and pushed off in it to the rescue of their struggling comrades; and it is gratifying to state that their mission was a most successful one, for they managed to pick up six of the poor fellows, and two others were saved by means of ropes thrown to them by Captain Wale from the pier. The remainder, however, five in number, all

perished. Their names were Matthew Hopkinson, chief engineer of the Triton steamer;—Wilson, chief mate of the Pioneer steamer, of Dover; John Lumsden, mate of the brig William, of Blyth; and James Anderson, mate of the brig John Coggin, of Whitby; and another sailor, whose name is unknown. The survivors, when landed, were nearly dead from exhaustion and cold. They were promptly conveyed to the Société Humaine, where they were received and treated with the greatest kindness and attention. Of the crew of the wrecked vessel only one was saved; the men dropped off the rigging one by one into the sea, and were drowned. The last man was taken out of the rigging by the first life-boat, which, after picking up the drowning people, left the shore a third time, and succeeded in gaining the wreck. Most of the English sailors who

Earl of Albemarle, was born in 1809, and entered the Navy at an early age. He served for several years on the East India, Mediterranean, and Cape of Good Hope stations; and also on the coast of China, where he commanded the *Dido* from 1841 to 1845. He took part in the destruction of Shanghai and other operations there, and in the destruction of the pirates in the Isle of Borneo. He commanded the *St. Jean d'Acre* in the Baltic during the Russian war, and commanded the Naval Forces in China in 1857-8. He attained Flag-rank in 1857, and was made a K.C.B. in the same year. He was appointed in 1860 to the command at the Cape; but, owing to certain circumstances of a private character, he did not assume it. He was a Groom in Waiting on her Majesty in 1859-60. He is well known as the author of "An Expedition to Borneo," and of "A Voyage

in the *Leander* in the Indian Archipelago. His brother, the Hon. and Rev. T. R. Keppel, is known as the author of a "Life of Admiral Keppel."

THE GREAT REVIEW AT CAIRO.

THAT the formation of an Egyptian Parliament should have been the occasion of holding a grand review of the troops will seem to us to be either inconsistent or significant; but to an Egyptian it may beneither. There are no great pageants now in Cairo.

The splendour of the pachalic has departed with the imperfect adoption of European customs; there is very little of the true barbaric pearl and gold left for the contemplation of the people; and State ceremonies have been shorn of their ancient magnificence, so that a review is nearly all that is left to express a great national event.

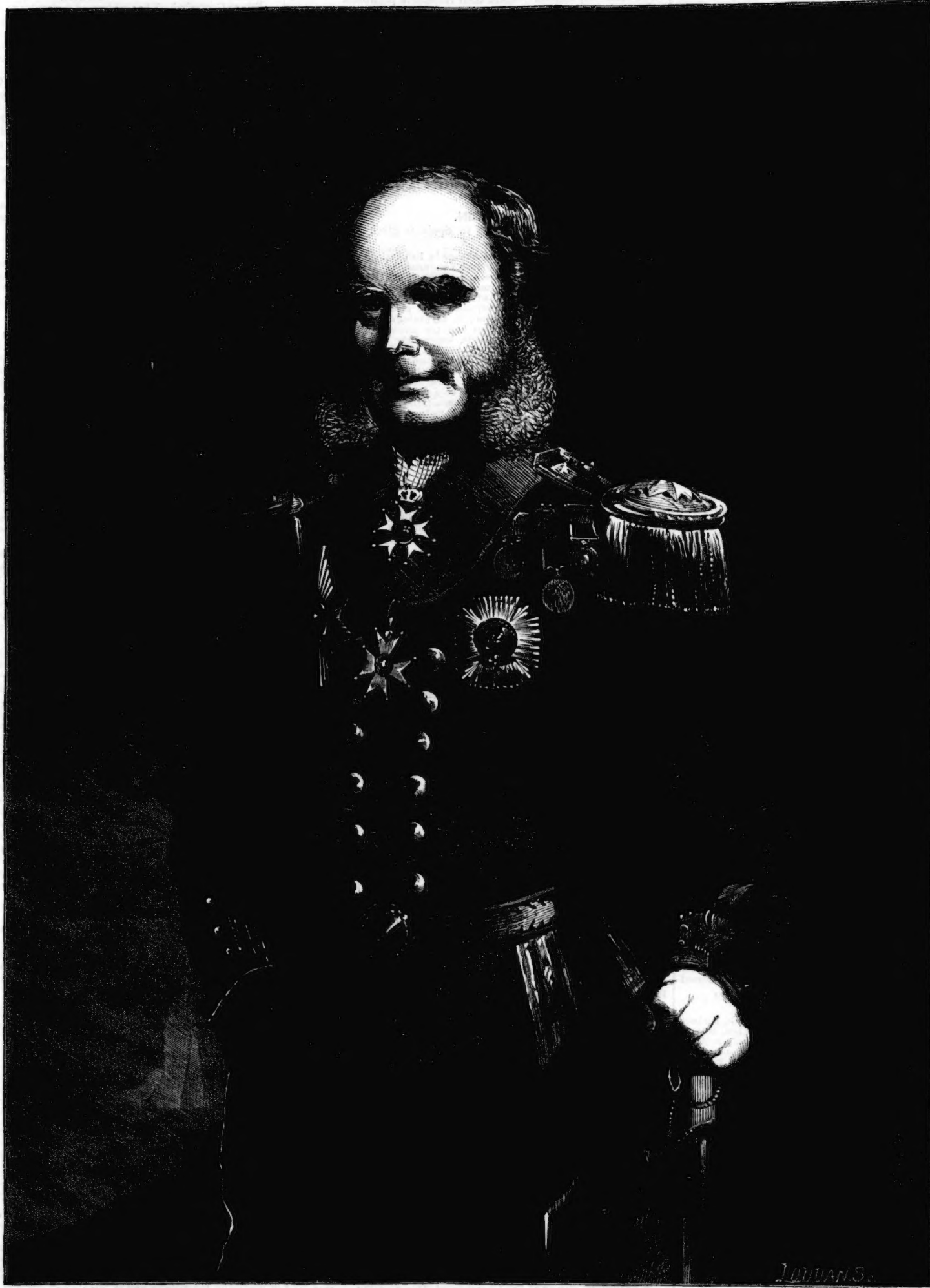
And the display of the troops at the solemn installation of the Egyptian Parliament, under the Viceroy Ismail Pacha, was a spectacle worth witnessing and worth remembering in connection with the progress indicated by the event which it was designed to celebrate.

At about two o'clock in the afternoon the Viceroy met for the first time the deputies elected by the suffrages of the people, in that same citadel which had been the scene of the tragedy of the Mamelukes; and on the same morning his Highness had been present at the more imposing ceremony represented in our illustration, in the great space at Abassieh devoted to the purpose of military exercise.

The Viceroy was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honour, and was attended by Colonel Mireler, with the other officers of the French mission. The pupils of the military school defied

in regular order, each corps at the head of its corresponding troop, and the juvenile soldiers were easily distinguished by their uniforms, which somewhat resemble those of the pupils at St. Cyr. The viceregal horseguards, however, in their sky blue uniforms, were perhaps the most striking in appearance; but the squadrons, not of cavalry, but of camelry, were the most extraordinary and imposing feature of the spectacle.

On the right of our Engraving may be seen the tents provided for the visitors and those of the camp; while in the distance is the harem of Abassieh, near the palace of the Viceroy, a not very imposing structure. The railway specially designed for the convenience of the Viceroy between Cairo and Abassieh, the minarets of the city still more remote, the tombs of the Valley of the Caliphs, and the bare crests of rising land to the right surmounted with windmills, make up a strange scene, scarcely relieving the gloom of the immense cemetery which separates Cairo from the plains of Abassieh.



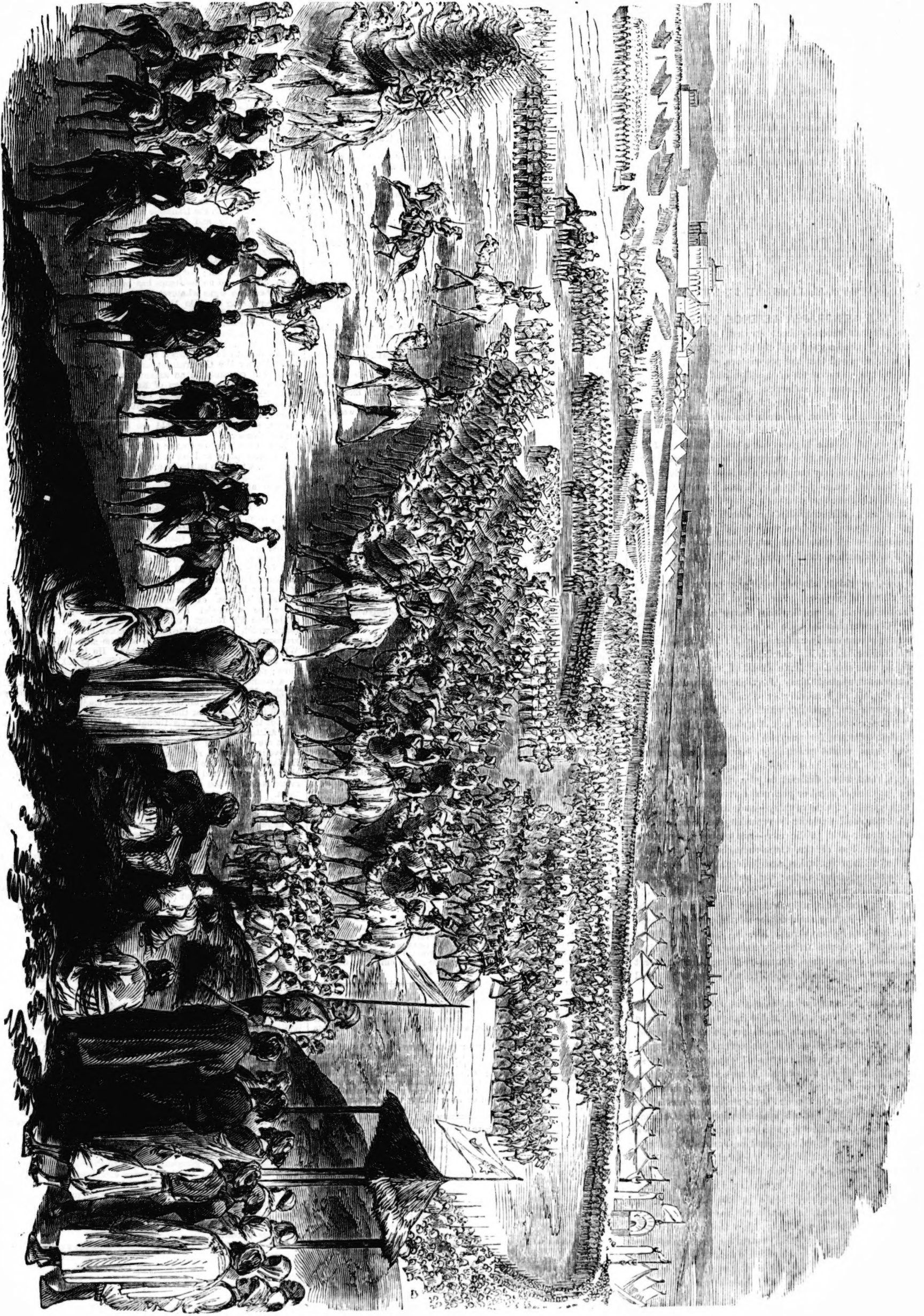
VICE-ADMIRAL SIR HENRY KEPPEL, K.C.B., COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE SQUADRON IN THE CHINA SEAS.

were lost in the second life-boat have left wives and families to lament their loss. The body of the engineer of the Triton has been washed ashore, and sent to London for burial.

SIR HENRY KEPPEL, K.C.B.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR HENRY KEPPEL, K.C.B., accompanied by his staff, proceeded, on Tuesday, to Sheerness, and at noon hoisted his flag, "white at the fore," on his appointment as Commander-in-Chief in China; her Majesty's ship Cumberland saluting with 15 guns. Captain Algernon Heneage, Flag Captain, commissioned her Majesty's ship Rodney, 80 guns, at the same time, as the gallant Admiral's flagship. At sunset Sir Henry Keppel struck his flag and proceeded on Admiralty leave; but will shortly take his departure to assume the duties of his command.

The Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, K.C.B., a younger son of the late



GRAND MILITARY REVIEW AT CAIRO, BEFORE THE VICEROY, ON OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1867.

THE NEWSPAPER DEFENCE FUND.

A PROJECT has recently been started about which we confess to having had a good deal of difficulty in making up our minds. It is proposed that the proprietors, editors, and contributors to the newspapers of London and the provinces should form, by means of subscriptions, a fund out of which costs and damages in suits for libel shall be paid, under certain conditions. Now, we are proud of our profession, and have a great respect for the bulk of the gentlemen who follow it; we place the highest value on the liberty of the press; we frankly admit that important services have been rendered to the public by the press, and that—in at least one notable instance, recently—by a bold and uncompromising exposure and denunciation of abuses; and we agree that the law of libel, as it still stands in the statute-book, and as it was until recently applied, is a very iniquitous law. We are fully sensible of all this, and yet we cannot concur with those who think such a fund necessary as that to which we have referred.

The press, we think, already wields a power sufficiently great for all useful purposes. The law of libel is not interpreted nowadays in a particularly harsh manner by our Judges. Considerable latitude is allowed. So long as a public writer is reasonably moderate in his language, honest in his intentions, and fairly careful as to the soundness of his facts, he need stand in little dread of an action for libel being successful against him. In these circumstances, we doubt the wisdom of removing or diminishing the sense of individual responsibility under which we all write, as the formation of the proposed fund would undoubtedly tend to do. If associated together for purposes of mutual defence, the newspaper press would practically become a corporation, and we all know how devoid corporations are of consciences, and how difficult is the task of getting at them for purposes of legal or personal correction.

The newspapers of this country—and in the term newspapers we include all periodicals recording and commenting upon public events and public men—are probably conducted now with much less of the truculence, bullying, personal vituperation, misrepresentation, and habitual unfairness, that at one time distinguished them; but we cannot help observing still an occasional indication of the presence of the old leaven of unrighteousness, and ere the wholesome dread of the law is weakened—by any such device as the proposed newspaper defence fund—we should like to see infused into journalistic controversy a little more than is at present visible of that amenity of language, charity of thought, and respect for the motives of opponents, for which we ventured to plead a couple of weeks since.

We are not so Utopian in our notions as to expect absolute fairness or perfectly unexceptionable language in partisan discussion. So long as men's minds are fallible, we must expect them to misconceive, and consequently to misrepresent, the arguments and statements of opponents; and so long as passion continues to influence human action and utterance we may look for, and can tolerate, a certain amount of strong language. What we contend for is that controversialists should abstain from designed misrepresentation, keep a reasonably tight bridle upon their utterances, and bestow a fair degree of pains in acquiring a knowledge and understanding of the views and opinions of others; that, in short, they should be honest. And as, with all deference to our professional brethren and public polemics generally, we do not think that we have yet attained anything like the degree of excellence required—that, in fact, some recent occurrences prove that we are still a good way below the mark—we deprecate any measure which shall lessen the pressure of the sense of responsibility under which it is desirable that each one of us should feel that he acts and speaks. We do not impute hardened wickedness to journalists any more than to other people; but it is abundantly evident that with them, as with others,

If self the trembling balance shake,
'Tis rarely right adjusted;

and we would expose self to as few temptations to shake the balance as possible.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER, being about to eject 149 poor families on his London estates, is providing houses for them by advancing the necessary capital to the association for building houses for the poor, for the erection of a suitable block of buildings.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

QUEEN VICTORIA will probably go to Germany in the spring, and also visit Paris for a few days to see the Exhibition. The Queen's journey will be quite of a private character, although she will be the guest of the Emperor and Empress.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has sent to the Prefect of Police a sum of 50,000*fr.* to be distributed among the most necessitous families in the capital.

PRINCE ARTHUR has "most satisfactorily" passed for admission into the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and he will enter that institution as a cadet on Feb. 11.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE OF MEXICO has been declared by her physicians to have perfectly recovered from her recent distressing malady.

A COLOSSAL BUST OF KING WILLIAM I. has arrived at La Seyne, to be placed in the hall where a grand banquet is to take place on the occasion of the launch of an iron-clad frigate which has been built for the Prussian Government in that yard.

THE ARCHDEACON OF YORK (not the Archbishop) is about to tender his resignation of office on account of advancing age.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND has offered a prize of £50 to be shot for in Dublin, in June next, in order to select an Irish team for the international competition at Wimbledon in July.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone and daughters arrived in Paris, on Monday, from Florence. The right hon. gentleman is expected to arrive in London on the 29th inst. for the meeting of Parliament.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL, M.P., will deliver his inaugural address as Rector of St. Andrew's University on Friday, Feb. 1.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE intends to pass the remainder of the winter in Italy.

M. VICTOR COUSIN has left his library, valued at £8000, to the Sorbonne.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has had the honour of receiving a donation of £25 from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and also a donation of £25 from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, in aid of the funds of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, of which his Lordship is president.

MR. HOBHOUSE, of the Civil Service, and Mr. Skinner, merchant, have been appointed members of the Indian Viceroy's Legislative Council.

MR. NOBLE, the sculptor, is charged with the execution of the statue of Lord Palmerston to be erected at Ramsey; and the memorial window in the Abbey Church will be executed by Mr. Clayton.

CAPTAIN HUISE, well known in the railway world from his long connection with the London and North-Western Railway Company, died on Friday week. Captain Huish was deputy chairman of the Electric and International Telegraph Company.

SCOTLAND consumes milk at the rate of 124½ fluid ounces weekly per adult; Ireland, 35 oz.; and England, only 32 oz.

THE PULSKI COLLECTION of antiquities and works of art has been purchased, we understand, by Mr. Meyer, for the museum at Liverpool.

MR. JOSEPH GUY, whose name is familiar to young people as the author of elementary books on history, geography, and various branches of science, died, on Saturday morning, at the age of eighty-three.

OFFICERS OF INFANTRY REGIMENTS under the rank of field officers will, after the 1st of April next, wear steel instead of leather scabbards.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM has been recently enriched by the purchase, for £48,000, of the famous Blacas Collection, for so many years well known as one of the richest and most instructive collections of antiquities in Paris.

LEPROSY is said to have broken out at the Government hospital at Bronbeck, in Holland. It was brought from the West Indies by an old soldier, and then became communicated to several others of the inmates.

SIR JAMES GEORGE DALTON FITZGERALD, a descendant of the distinguished loyalist of that name who lived in the time of Charles I., died on Saturday. He was born in 1831, and was educated at the Roman Catholic College at Oscott. He is succeeded in his baronetcy by his brother, Lieutenant Gerald Fitzgerald, R.N.

THREE MEN were recently buried alive in the Scilly Islands while making a pit. A finger of one of them was seen above the earth, and the man was rescued. The others were killed.

SNOW IS REMOVED IN VIENNA as fast as it falls, but at a considerable expense. All the men out of work are set to sweep the streets at sixty kreutzers (about 1*fr.* 80c.) a day.

THE UNDERWRITERS, shipowners, and members of the mercantile marine service in Liverpool have expressed the greatest dissatisfaction with regard to the cessation of the storm warnings which were inaugurated by the late Admiral Fitzroy, and intend presenting a memorial to the Board of Trade, asking that they may be re-established at once.

SIR STEPHEN R. GLYNNE has during the past week returned half a year's rent to those of his tenants who have sustained losses by the cattle plague, and to those who have lost all their stock twelve months' rent.

THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS sent from the London district to the several military stations averages at present nearly 300 a week, a rather large proportion of which comes from Bristol and other non-manufacturing districts.

THE CITY OF VENICE, owing to high winds in the Adriatic, has been inundated to an extent which has never been equalled within the memory of any of its inhabitants. The Piazza of St. Mark was so flooded that boats and gondolas passed over it, and the whole of the space had the appearance of a vast lake.

A FAMILY LIVING AT DROGHEDA sent for some porter to a vintner's close at hand the other day, when, on the cork being drawn, it was discovered that the bottles were filled with gunpowder. Further search showed that the vintner had a very large stock of this kind of "porter," and he was accordingly taken into custody.

THE REV. ROBERT MILMAN has been appointed Bishop of Calcutta. Mr. Milman was for some time Vicar of Lambourn, and is at present Vicar of Great Marlow. He was of Exeter College, Oxford, and took a second class in 1837. Mr. Milman is a nephew of the Dean of St. Paul's, and is a man of moderate theological opinions. He was an intimate friend of the late Bishop Cotton.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Reform League, and the delegates from trade, friendly, and temperance societies appointed to confer with the committee, have agreed upon a scheme for general and district organisation for the Reform demonstration of Feb. 11. The postal division of the metropolis is to be taken, and a person will be appointed as organiser of each district. A meeting is to be held in Trafalgar-square during the day, and another in the Agricultural Hall in the evening.

THE SKELETONS OF A HORSE AND ITS RIDER, and a long rust-eaten lance lying close by, have been discovered in the midst of a tuft of bushes of extraordinary thickness in the forest of Cinglais, near Caen. An examination has led to the conclusion that the remains are those of a Cossack and his steed. The supposition is that the animal, being wounded, fell with its rider into the thicket, which lies low, and that they were unable to extricate themselves.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS for the CITY OF LONDON, at their weekly meeting on Tuesday, fined the four scavenging contractors to the commission in sums amounting in all to £915—namely, Mr. Reddin, £280 10s.; Mr. Easton, £313 10s.; Mr. Stephens, £192 10s.; and Mr. Winn, £200; the whole of the penalties so imposed, with the exception of £26 in the case of Mr. Stephens, being for neglecting to perform conditions of their contracts as to the removal of snow during the snowstorm which began on Jan. 2.

DR. MERLE D'AUBIGNE ON THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Dr. Merle D'Aubigne, writing from Geneva, on the 10th inst., in reference to the present position of the Church of England, makes the following suggestions to satisfy the wants of the Church:—"There are in Convocation men of superior talent; but is not that body generally felt to be a relic of the Middle Ages—respectable, indeed, but unsuited to the present times? This is the old house that should be pulled down to make way for a building fit to shelter the principles and the liberties of the Reformed Church in England. An assembly regularly and legally constituted—an Upper House, in which would sit the Bishops and lay representatives elected by the different dioceses; a Lower House for the clergy and lay representatives of parishes or unions of parishes; an executive council to carry out the decisions of these two Houses—such an organisation would, in my opinion, satisfy the most pressing wants of the Church and give a renewed impulsion to its activity. The deliberations of Parliament bring to light many abuses and solve many difficulties. In like manner the discussions of such an assembly, in which Christian Protestant principles would be brought forward, would do much to form public opinion and decide the difficult questions of the day. Never was it more necessary that the Protestantism of England should become well organised. Everyone knows the ambition of Romanism; the Papal aggression was not so dangerous as the covert but persevering efforts of the Jesuits, working, as they do in England, with the help of Continental Romanists. Have they no share in the Ritualism of the present day? Was not the identity of the two systems pointed out by Dr. Manning? But, whether Jesuitism is at the bottom of the present movement in England or no, the almighty power of God and the organised efforts of Christian people are necessary to preserve the treasure recovered at the Reformation. Cicero said ('De Legibus')—'Vitorum emendatorem legem esse oportet.' I think these words applicable to the present times. I may be mistaken; but I think that a change such as has been described would, with God's help, contribute to the purity and to the prosperity of the Church of England and to the good of the country."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE *Sunday Gazette*—which some people imagine has a connecting pipe of communication between its office and Downing-street—says that the Government will not bring in a reform bill, but will propose some preparatory ventilation on the subject. On the other hand, the *Whig Scotsman* says—"It is now, we rather believe, finally determined that the Government is to bring in a reform bill." "Now finally determined!" What, only now? Surely this is over late to finally determine to bring in such an important measure, seeing that in less than a fortnight the House will meet. Perhaps, though, the bill may have long been prepared; that there has been some doubt about the policy of proposing it, and that now the doubt has, by the persuasive and convincing logic of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, been removed. Well, this may be so; but what strikes our political gossips as strange is, that nobody outside Downing-street has heard the slightest note of preparation; no returns have been asked for at any of the public offices; no assistance solicited. If, therefore, the chief artificer of the Government has manufactured a bill, he must have made it out of his own head; but, active, and clever, and ingenious, and opulent in resources, as we all know the Chancellor of the Exchequer's brain to be, this is considered to be an almost impossible feat. That part of a bill dealing with the franchise the leader of the House might get together silently and secretly, as there are voluminous, though, it is said, not very accurate, returns on that subject on the table of the House. But what of the redistribution of seats question? Surely he would want information about that, and assistance from the departmental officials, when he came to consider this part of the bill; but as far as one can learn no information has been sought, and no assistance has been asked for. In short, there have been no signs whatever that a manufactory of a reform bill has been going on. On the whole, then, not to speak with confidence, I should say that the evidence in favour of the correctness of the announcement in the *Sunday Gazette* is stronger than that in favour of the *Scotsman* story.

Will, then, the Reform question, and how it is to be put, be alluded to in the Royal Speech? One would think that it must be, for the Government must know that, if it be avoided, there will certainly be an amendment. I suspect that the Royal Speech will make mention of Reform, for there are certainly no signs that the Government expect a fight upon the Address. Disraeli has issued the usual summons in the usual style—neither more nor less urgent—than common. But if a fight had been expected, a special whip would ere this have been sent of the most urgent character.

And now a word or two on another subject that has lately startled the Liberal party and set it all on the seethe—I mean the grave question, who is to be the future leader of the Liberal party. That Gladstone is not an entirely competent leader of the Liberal party all will allow; he is too impulsive and impetuous, and of too irritable a temperament—not temper, as the slanderers of him say, for it is not true that he loses command over his temper. Thus much, then, is allowed. But, on the other hand, impartial observers must confess that he led during last Session, whilst he held the leadership, much better than was expected or hoped by his friends. He did not and cannot lead as Lord Palmerston did, for that noble Lord was master of his party; but, then, it must be remembered, that in the opinion of all but his own partisans, he terribly degraded and demoralised the House, and that the outbreak of freedom after having been so long under an iron tyranny has made Gladstone's task exceptionally difficult. Still, Gladstone will never be a model leader—like Earl Russell, for example, or the late Sir Robert Peel. But do not imagine that it is the faults which I have hinted at that make him unpalatable to the aristocratic Whigs, who want to set him aside. The truth is, the Whig grandees never liked Gladstone. He is not of them; he is not an hereditary Whig—hardly a Whig at all, but something more; nor has he aristocratic rank. His father began life as a clerk in a counting-house; his grandfather kept a shop at Edinburgh. Nor has he hooked himself by marriage to any of the great Whig families. Now, all this is intolerable enough to the old hereditary Whig houses; but there is more than this. Gladstone's ways are not their ways, nor his thoughts their thoughts. He lacks the cold aristocratic hauteur, the insouciance, the frigid officialism of what are called the Whig governing families. Then these people believe in a sort of right divine of certain great houses to govern England; Gladstone believes in no right divine except that of ability to govern and the consent of the people to be governed. His motto is that of the great Napoleon: tools to the men who can use them. This was the rule on which Napoleon acted in choosing his Generals, and this is the rule by which Gladstone, if he could, would be guided in selecting men to rule here. And what can be more impertinent and offensive to Whig aristocrats than this? "Besides, this fellow Gladstone is such a reformer, you know; egad, if he had his way, he would revolutionise everything." Of course, we are all Parliamentary reformers now. But there is this difference between Whig reformers and Gladstone: they adopt it as an expedient—a necessity; he as a principle in which he firmly believes. "Yes, we must enlarge the franchise, for we shall never get a settled Government (of Whigs) till this question be got out of the way." But Gladstone wants Parliamentary reform that he may carry other reforms which he has long had in his wallet but could not bring out. Ah, that terrible wallet of his! If he could once get a power behind his back sufficient to enable him to open it and pour out its contents, he would make Privilege stare and gasp for breath. And this Privilege well knows. And this is another reason why the Whig grandees wish to dethrone him, and to hobble his wings. "You know, he is such an eccentric fellow!" said my Lord Slipshod; to whom the reply was given, "Yes, he is—out of the Whig centre."

But will these Whig grandees succeed? Certainly not. It is amazing to me that any one should be so crassly ignorant of the political forces of the House of Commons and the country as to imagine that such a conspiracy can succeed. There never can be a permanent Liberal Government without Gladstone; and, whatever official position he may hold in the Government, he must be its Leader in the House of Commons. He might be successfully relegated by Whig insolence to below the gangway; but how long would a Whig Government last with him on its flank? He, with the Radical party at his back, would shatter the Ministry to pieces in a month. If these Whigs, then, are wise, they will drop this conspiracy at once. When the next Liberal Government comes to be formed, Gladstone may condescend to allow a peer—Clarendon, or Granville, or Somerset, or Russell—to be Premier, with him as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader in the House; but if they should drive him below the gangway, he will be Premier of England in a few weeks, in spite of all the Peerage combined can do. If it ever come to a fair fight between brains and a mere coronet, be sure, my Lords, brains will have the victory. I was going to tell you the name of the young Lord whom the conspirators wish to put in Gladstone's place; but I forbear, because I feel convinced that that young gentleman cannot have dreamed of allowing himself to be placed in so ridiculous a position.

At the last moment, I hear that the conspiracy against Gladstone has dissolved. The timely note of alarm sounded by Professor Fawcett at Brighton has scared the conspirators. By-the-way, the *Spectator* spoke of Bright as if he had some aversion to Gladstone. I do not believe for a moment that this is true.

Mr. Brand is to resume his old post. Pleading ill-health at the close of the Session of 1866, he relinquished the whip, and it was arranged that Mr. Onslow should take it. Ill-health is a wide term, and often covers many things not proper to be revealed; and, perhaps, under this plea there was something more than Mr. Brand cared to make public. But, however this may have been, whatever objections Mr. Brand had to retain his position, have been cleared away, and that to the satisfaction of everybody—Whigs, Tories, and Radicals, insiders and outsiders—for Mr. Brand is a general favourite. He will again, at the opening of the Session, act as chief whip of the Liberal party.

In the House of Lords the Earl of Beauchamp is to move, and

Baron Delamere is to second, the Address. The readers of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* will remember the Earl of Beauchamp as the Hon. Fred. Lygon of the House of Commons,—the fussy gentleman, noted for faultless dress and resplendent neckties, who was prone to begin talking when everybody wanted to be in bed, and to buzz about Mr. Gladstone at very late hours like a gadfly. Lord Delamere is not much known. He is a Cholmondeley—pronounced Chumley. If your readers care to know, the Hon. Thomas De Grey, eldest son of Lord Walsingham, and member for West Norfolk, is to move the Address in the House of Commons, and Mr. Greaves, the member for Liverpool, is to second—neither of them very lively birds. Mr. Greaves is a solid, sensible man, and a hard worker; albeit he is but a dull speaker.

I see that the City Commissioners of Sewers have been imposing heavy fines upon their contractors for not clearing away the snow from the streets during the late storm. If these fines are really levied, and their imposition is not a mere farce, the example may be of service *pour le encouragement des autres*. But it would seem that snow or thaw makes little difference to us poor denizens of London. Now that we have a thaw, the streets are like a sea of slush; and yet, so far as I have seen, there seems as little capacity or inclination to clear away the mud as there was to operate upon the snow. We are subjected to an out-of-the-frying-pan-into-the-fire sort of treatment by the cleansing contractors, who, under all circumstances, effectually contrive "not to do it."

Captain Mayne Reid, whose name is well known as that of a most successful votary of light literature, proposes to give an entertainment in the Hanover-square Rooms, next Monday night, for the benefit of the suffering poor of the metropolis. The entertainment, which is entitled "An Evening with the Poets," and consists of readings from Byron, Campbell, Scott, Hood, Sheridan Knowles, Mrs. Hemans, and others, cannot fail to be interesting on its own merits, and will be doubly so from the benevolent purpose Captain Mayne Reid has in view.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

I should like, Mr. Editor, to call the attention of reading and thinking people to a certain point which has not very often emerged as yet in the criticism of philosophical writings; though it cannot now fail to do so from time to time. It is strictly a question of construction of phraseology, and concerns all sides of opinion equally, if it be true that fighting with open eyes is equally good for all sides. The high scientific party are threatening to become the dictators of opinion in every direction; but, without taking sides, I may call the attention of writing and reading men to a matter of pure criticism.

In his "Reign of Law" his Grace the Duke of Argyll quotes an eminent man of science as saying, in reply to a contemporary who had observed that some of his language implied Atheism, that he considered "Atheism as absurd, logically speaking, as Polytheism;" and also as saying that "denying the possibility of miracles seemed to him quite as unjustifiable as speculative Atheism." Upon this his Grace makes some very candid and admirable remarks, with which I do not meddle. Neither do I mention the name of the eminent man of science in question, partly because I don't know his private opinions, and partly because I love a logical humourist; and a letter of his to a contemporary upon the *Kyrie* prosecution was much funnier than anything I have seen in *Punch* for a long time. I like the man very much; but we mustn't allow such phraseology as I have quoted to mislead us when used by this, that, or the other man of science. I will just cross-examine it, then; and for that purpose I will put an *imaginary* man of science into the witness-box:—

Q. You have been called an Atheist, and you wish to make a statement?

A. Yes; I think Atheism is as absurd as Polytheism.

Q. But I must ask you another question. What do you think of Theism? [And here my man of science, if honest, makes answer]

A. I think that is in the same predicament.

Q. In other words, you think science has no means of knowing either that there is no god, or that there are many gods, or that there is one God?

A. Just so.

Q. One more question. Have we, in your opinion, any organ of knowledge except what we employ in scientific investigation?

A. None.

I need not draw the inference; and I now pass on to the other question:—

Q. You say a miracle is a question of evidence?

A. Yes.

Q. That is, that if you saw a dead man come to life, or a stonerise instead of falling when dropped from a tower, you would believe it; or that, upon sufficient proof, you would believe it?

A. Just so.

Q. And what next?

A. I should proceed to amplify my science, and amend my formula.

It will be observed here that a miracle has become merely an unexpected occurrence—something requiring a reform of an old classification. Now, we can afford to excuse any man from informing us that he will believe something quite new, if it be only proved; but a mere unexpected occurrence is a miracle with the miraculous cut out of it. A "miracle" is insignificant, unless we previously or contemporaneously postulate Theism. And, of course, this cannot be done by any man who gives the previous answers about the only organ of human knowledge.

I repeat, Mr. Editor, that these remarks are wholly impersonal and purely critical, and will only add that I have experienced the greatest delight in reading the "Reign of Law." That part of the work which relates to birds is as interesting as a fairy tale. Mr. Wolf's drawings are, as usual, exquisite; and readers who want new ideas about aerostatics will find them in these charming pages. The style of his Grace (to say nothing here of his thought, of which others have spoken words of admiration certainly not too strong) often runs into poetry; and it has everywhere that indescribable not-too-muchness which is always the *cachet* of high-class work.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I am at a total loss to conceive Mr. F. B. Chatterton's reason for reviving the younger Colman's comedy "John Bull" at DRURY LANE. It is very prosy, very didactic, and crammed with inflated truisms and sounding commonplaces. As a specimen of the style of dialogue that delighted our grandfathers, it is certainly interesting; but, when that is admitted, there is little more to say for it. The characters are utterly conventional, and therefore unnatural; and of plot there is scarcely sufficient to decently fill a single act. The only object that I can suppose it possible that the management had in view in reviving this obsolete piece of nonsense, is that it may act as a foil to the pantomime; and, if this was his object, it may be said to have been attained. Mr. Phelps played Job Thornberry with great care, and contrived to render the part interesting. Mr. T. Swinbourne delivered the sounding aphorisms that belong to the part of Peregrine with due solemnity; and Mr. E. Phelps uttered the improprieties that are allotted to the Hon. Tom Shuffleton with as much delicacy as the part admitted of. Mr. Barrett contrived to make Denis Brulgrudery rather amusing; and Mrs. Herman Vezin's embodiment of Mary Thornberry was as delicately truthful as this lady's performances always are. But one and all had up-hill work of it. The scenery is detestable, and the costumes comprise every variety of dress that was popular in England between the years 1725 and 1810. If I included Mr. E. Phelps's whiskers and moustache, I should be justified in placing the later limit at 1866.

I went, on Tuesday last, to the SURREY to see "A, Apple Pie, or, Harlequin Jack in the Box and the Little Boy Blue." The piece is exceedingly well placed upon the stage, but not so well as the pantomime at the rival house, Astley's. The earlier scenes are all excellent, particularly the Palace of Toys; but the transformation scene is not as effective as usual at this theatre. On the occasion of my visit Mr. Irvine, who plays an important part in the opening, was invalided, and this clever comedian's part was filled by

another member of the company. I sincerely hope, for the reputation of this rising actor, that the particularly coarse "business" indulged in by Jack in the Box in his bed-room on Tuesday night was an improvisation of his substitute's. Miss Goodall is entitled to honourable mention for her performance of Little Boy Blue, which was extremely promising. The ballet, led by Miss Reynolds, is effective. The dialogue is utter trash.

"The Serious Family" has been revived at the HAYMARKET with success. Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Howe, Mr. Farren, Mrs. Chippendale, Miss Nelly Moore, and Miss Jane Burke are included in the cast.

"The Streets of London" has succeeded "Barnaby Rudge" at the PRINCESS's, greatly to the advantage of the management. I am happy to say that the attendance at this house is once more up to its usual numerical standard. "The Streets of London" will be succeeded by a new and original sensation drama by Mr. T. W. Robertson, the title of which has not transpired. I understand that Mr. Watts Phillips's drama, "Lost in London," which has been lying *perdu* in the ADELPHI library, is in active preparation. Mr. Halliday is preparing a drama for DRURY LANE; and a comedy by Mr. Tom Taylor is shortly to supplant "Flying Scud" at the HOLBORN. An operatic burlesque, by the author of "Dulcamara," is shortly to be produced at this theatre.

I find that in a notice of "A Lesson for Life," at the HAYMARKET THEATRE, which appeared a fortnight since in these columns, I have carelessly expressed a sentence which is open to misinterpretation. In alluding to Mr. Sothern's performance of Vivian, I said:—"In Mr. Sothern's hands he is an unmitigated cad, insulting every lady whom he meets in a manner which would ensure his being kicked out of any gentleman's house before he had been an hour in it." In fairness to Mr. Sothern and to myself I should have explained that this remark was not intended to reflect on Mr. Sothern's performance, but upon the character as altered, by (I suppose) the author, since it was originally played by the Civil Service Amateurs. Mr. Sothern is as gentlemanly in the part as the part admits of his being.

THE SICK POOR IN WORKHOUSES.

MR. ERNEST HART, whose name is now well known in connection with reform in workhouse infirmaries and the treatment of the sick poor, writes as follows in reference to recent progress in this matter:—

It has been a great source of satisfaction to observe that, during the recess and throughout the winter months, every effort has been made by the Poor-Law Board to carry out those suggestions for the comfort and welfare of the sick in poorhouses which I have been allowed to advocate in your columns, and which the committee of the London Workhouse Infirmaries Association laid before Mr. Villiers and Mr. Hardy. The work which Mr. Villiers inaugurated before leaving office Mr. Hardy has vigorously carried on; and most of those practical and important reforms to which you have lent your most powerful and valuable aid either have been carried out, or will, there is reason to believe, be proposed to Parliament.

Since last you discussed this subject the number of paid nurses has been largely increased. Night nurses have been provided. A great deal of additional space has been afforded (not yet enough, and more will be provided, it is hoped, by the intervention of the Legislature); dietaries have been improved; classification has been attempted (in the present crowded state of most houses it cannot be carried out); the management of the cooking for the sick has been greatly (but not universally) improved; efforts have been made, and in most instances successfully, to improve the provision for lunatics and imbeciles; the ventilation and sanitary arrangements have been revised largely. In fine, much has been done under all the heads of reform to improve the working of the parish infirmary system. On this, Sir, I am sure that all who have taken part in the recent efforts to promote such changes have great reason to congratulate themselves; and, as changes so great could not have been wrought without the combined influence of the press, of the heads of the medical profession, and of the personal action of men representatives of the different classes of society, all may equally feel that they have assisted the good work.

That all this patchwork must be followed by a general measure of larger scope for widening the power of the Poor-Law Board, for harmonising and unifying the management of the local infirmaries, and for equalising the burdens of the various parishes, is still the opinion of all those whom I have had the opportunity of consulting; and we wait, therefore, with interest the publication of the measure which Mr. Hardy is understood to be preparing for early introduction into Parliament. Meantime, I would ask you to allow me to direct attention to the state of affairs at the Strand Union—of which you have several times taken notice—in order to show how much more is still needed. That house is still overcrowded. There are at this moment more than forty patients beyond the number it is calculated to hold, even at the scale of only 500 cubic feet of air to each. The Poor-Law Board, three months since, called the attention of the guardians to the recommendation which the deputation of the Workhouse Infirmaries Association had made, that a resident medical assistant should be provided. The house has but one medical officer, Dr. Rogers, whose salary is £100 a year, and whose duties at this time include the daily care of nearly 300 sick people, each requiring to be seen. The guardians adjourned the consideration of that recommendation for three months—that is, to the present time; and they have just finally resolved to do nothing in the matter. Out of his salary of £100 a year Dr. Rogers is paying £50 a year for assistance, and it was proposed to raise his salary to £200 a year in order to enable him to relieve himself of the immense burden of labour thrown upon him and to meet his outlay for help. This was rejected. The necessity for such aid was admitted, but the funds to provide it were denied. At other houses the conduct of the guardians on this most important subject has been public-spirited and satisfactory, but in the majority of cases it has been similar to that of the Strand guardians. I will not take up your space by entering into further details; but this one recent and flagrant example will show that it is very necessary the Poor-Law Board should have the power to require the guardians to do what is necessary, instead of merely recommending that which they may postpone or reject at pleasure.

MR. S. LAING AND THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—Negotiations have been for some time pending between the directors of the Great Eastern Railway Company and Mr. Samuel Laing, M.P., with a view to induce that gentleman to join the board. It is understood that these negotiations have resulted in Mr. Laing's consent to his name being proposed to the meeting on Feb. 12, and that he will be prepared to take the control of the financial affairs of the company, and of any important negotiations with other companies, upon the stipulation that his attention is to be principally confined to those departments, and that he is not to be expected to take charge of the details of working and traffic arrangements, which, from the great decrease of expenditure effected during the past half-year, cannot, he considers, be in better hands than those of the present management.

DESTRUCTION OF AN OBSERVATORY.—On Sunday last the observatory connected with St. Gregory's College, Downside, near Bath, was totally destroyed by fire. It originated apparently in the heating apparatus, which kindled the joists of the ground floor; the flames, which caught some stuffed birds and other natural-history specimens in the museum kept in the lower room, were rapidly communicated to the equatorial room above, in which was a magnificent refracting telescope of 15 in. diameter and 20 ft. focal length. The observing-stages formed capital fuel for the fire; and in less than an hour the whole was one mass of flame, leaving no possibility of rescuing anything. The loss of the glass and astronomical plant attached to the telescope is the more unfortunate as the observatory had only just been placed in full working order. The loss to the college of the antiquities, curiosities, and natural-history collections in the museums cannot be estimated, for they contained many unique and invaluable specimens, and were the result of fifty years' accumulation.

MR. GLADSTONE AS EDITOR.—The *Spectator* quotes from the poems of Sir Francis Doyle some playful lines, which describe Mr. Gladstone's editorial functions at Eton in his boyish days, the impressive authority he exercised over his coadjutors, and the literary fecundity with which he supplied their shortcomings:—

"To one I turn—the monarch of debate,
President Minos of our little State,
When, when we met to give the world the law
About Confucius, Caesar, or Jack Straw,
Saw with grave face the unrelenting flow
Of puffs and jellies from the shop below;
At the right moment, called us to forsake
Intrusive fruit, and unattending cake;
And, if unheeded, on the stroke of four,
With rigid hand closed the still-opening door,
Denouncing ever after in a trice,
That heinous breach of privilege—an ice—
To one who, in his editorial den,
Clenched grimly an eradicating pen,
Confronting frantic poets with calm eye,
And dooming hardened metaphors to die,
Who, if he found his young adherents fail,
The ode unfinished, uncommenced the tale,
With the next number bawling to be fed,
And its false feeders latitant or fled,
Sat down unfinishingly to write it all,
And kept the staggering project from a fall."

REFORMS IN FRANCE.

THE Emperor Napoleon has addressed the following letter to the Minister of State:—

Palace of the Tuilleries, Jan. 19, 1867.

Monsieur le Ministre.—For some years it has been a question whether our institutions have reached their limit of perfection or whether new improvements remain to be effected; hence an uncertainty, which is to be regretted, and which it is important to bring to an end.

Hitherto you have had to struggle courageously in my name in order to repel inopportune demands and leave me the initiative of useful reforms when the time for them should have come. To day I believe that it is possible to give to the institutions of the Empire all the development of which they are susceptible, and to the public liberties a new extension without compromising the power which the nation has confided to me.

The plan which I have traced for myself consists in correcting the imperfections which time has revealed, and in admitting those steps in advance which are compatible with our habits and usages; for the art of governing consists in profiting by experience and foreseeing the wants of the future.

The decree of the 24th of November, 1860, had for its object to associate the Senate and the Legislative Body more directly with the policy of the Government; but the discussion of the address has not produced the results which were to be expected from it. At times it uselessly inflamed opinion, gave rise to sterile debates, and caused time that was most valuable for business to be wasted. I believe that, without diminishing the prerogatives of the deliberating powers, the address may be superseded by the right of interpellation, discreetly regulated.

Another modification has appeared to me necessary in the relations of the Government with the great bodies of the State. I have deemed that in sending the Ministers to the Senate and to the Legislative Body, by virtue of a special delegation to participate there in certain discussions, I should better utilise the powers of my Government, without departing from the terms of the Constitution, which admits no solidarity between the Ministers, and makes them depend solely on the chief of the State.

But the reforms which it is proper to adopt are not to stop here; a law will be proposed having for its purpose to bestow exclusively on the correctional tribunals the function of judging offences of the press, and thus to abolish the discretionary power of the Government. It is also necessary to regulate the right of meeting by legislative enactment, restricting it within the limits which the public safety requires.

I said last year that my Government desired to march on a firm ground, capable of supporting both power and liberty. By the measures which I have just indicated my words are realised. I do not, then, unsettle the ground which fifteen years of calm and prosperity have consolidated; I render it more firm by drawing closer my relations with the great public powers, by assuring under the law new guarantees to the citizens—by accomplishing, in fine, the crowning of the edifice erected by the national will.

Whereupon, Monsieur le Ministre, I pray God to have you in his holy keeping.

NAPOLEON.

The following is the full text of the decree which accompanies the letter of the Emperor:—

Napoleon, by the grace of God and of the national will, Emperor of the French,

To all present and to come, greeting:—

Wishing to give more utility and more precision to the discussions of the great bodies of the State on the internal and external policy of the Government:

We have decreed and do decree as follows:—

Art. 1. The members of the Senate and of the Legislative Body may address interpellations to the Government.

Art. 2. Every demand (of leave) for interpellations must be written or signed by five members at least. This demand summarily explains the object of the interpellations; it is delivered to the president, who communicates it to the Minister of State, and remits it for examination at the committees (*bureaux*).

Art. 3. If two committees of the Senate, or four committees of the Legislative Body, pronounce their opinion that the interpellations may take place, the Chamber fixes the day for the discussion.

Art. 4. After the close of the discussion the Chamber pronounces the order of the day, pure and simple, or the remission to the Government.

Art. 5. The order of the day, pure and simple, always has the priority.

Art. 6. The remission to the Government can be pronounced in the following terms only:—

"The Senate (or the Legislative Body) calls the attention of the Government to the object of the interpellations."

In that case an abstract of the deliberation is transmitted to the Minister of State.

Art. 7. Each of the Ministers may, by special delegation of the Emperor, be appointed, in concert with the Minister of State, the Presidents, and the members of the Council of State, to represent the Government before the Senate or the Legislative Body, in the discussion of affairs or of bills (*projets de loi*).

Art. 8. Articles 1 and 2 of our decree of Nov. 24, 1860, are abolished, which enjoin that the Senate and the Legislative Body shall every year, at the opening of the Session, vote an address in reply to our speech.

Art. 9. Our Minister of State is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Done at the Palace of the Tuilleries, Jan. 19, 1867.

By the Emperor,
The Minister of State, E. Rouher.

NAPOLEON.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

SUBJOINED is the text of the circular despatch forwarded on the 26th ult. by the Turkish Government to its representatives at Paris, London, and St. Petersburg, in which complaint is made of the recent policy pursued by Greece:—

Constantinople, Dec. 26, 1866.

Sir,—You have already learnt from my former despatches the pacification of the Island of Crete, and the concentration of the remaining insurgents solely at the two points of Solinos and Kissamos. I hope to be able to announce to you by telegraph their complete subjugation before the arrival of this despatch. It is notorious, Sir, that the insurrection might have been suppressed far sooner, and perhaps without bloodshed, if Hellenic agitators entering from abroad had not influenced the inhabitants of the island by criminal intrigues and menacing threats, which have only contributed to prolong the revolt and increase the number of the unfortunate victims.

When the Hellenes became convinced of the non-success of their guilty plans with regard to Crete, they began openly to disturb tranquillity in Epirus and Thessaly. Throwing aside all disguise, they come to organise bands of robbers who cross the frontiers under the protection of the military force of the Greek Government assembled at Lamia and Carvassara, murder those of our Christian subjects who fall into their hands while offering resistance, and plunder their property.

Large preparations have been made by sea and on land with the intention of more energetic proceedings in the spring.

We find ourselves, therefore, at present not face to face with an insurrection at home, but in presence of a Government which endeavours and makes manifest preparations to revolutionise our territory. I am happy to be able to state that, notwithstanding the most violent intrigues of Greece, the greatest quiet prevails throughout the empire. In view of the events now becoming developed, therefore, we feel thoroughly convinced that friendly Powers will admit that the manifestly hostile conduct of the Greek Government, both with regard to Crete and to the general tranquillity in the other provinces of the realm, is without parallel between two States living at peace. They will at the same time admit that the Sublime Porte, solely inspired by the wish of preserving peace, has given proofs of unexampled self-denial.

But there are limits which cannot and must not be overstepped, and it can hardly longer remain a matter of indifference to his Imperial Majesty the Sultan that a considerable portion of his subjects, who desire to live quietly and enjoy the protection guaranteed to them, should fall sacrifices to the passions and destructive schemes of Greek adventurers, and that the tranquillity of his empire should be disturbed and endangered. If, therefore, the Greek Government, setting aside the obligations imposed upon it by treaties, should persevere in the course it has hitherto pursued, the Imperial Government will find itself compelled to adopt measures required by the duty of providing for its own security, leaving at the same time to the Greeks the full responsibility for all the consequences such measures might entail.

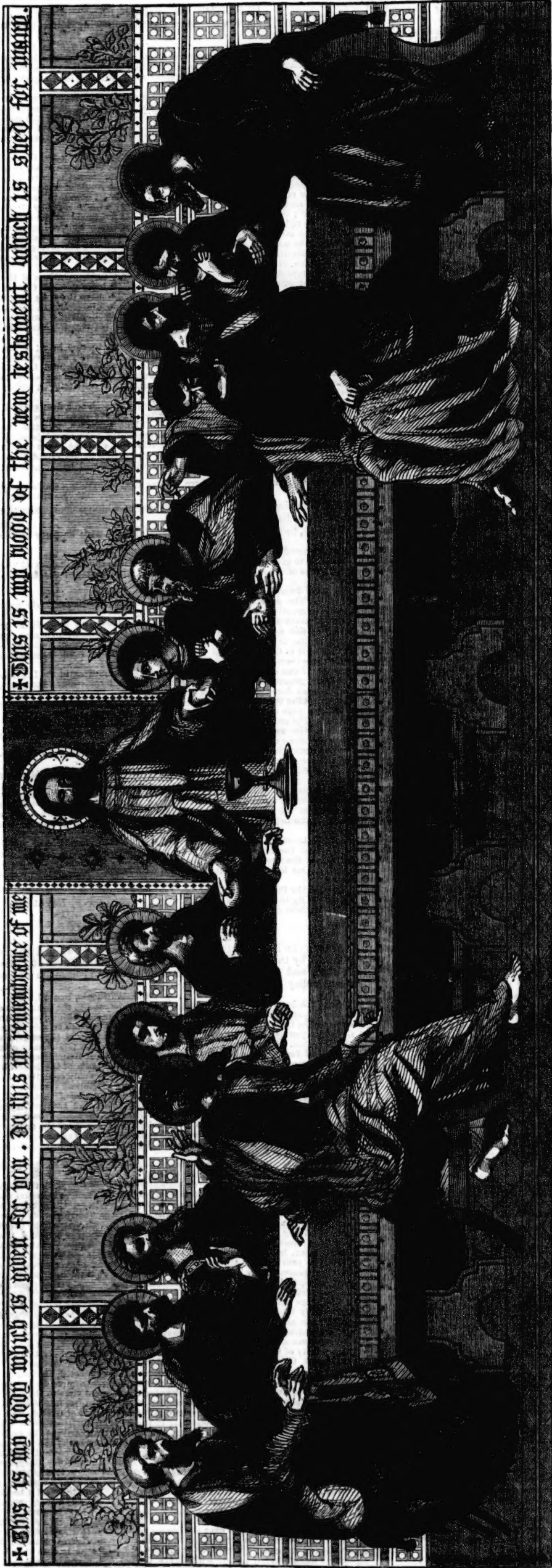
We are of opinion, Sir, that the three protecting Powers of Greece, who so sincerely uphold peace and tranquillity in the East, and in like manner wish to see the treaties held inviolate which guarantee the integrity of the realm, will alone be able to avert this possibility by bringing back, through collective and effectual action, the Greek Government to the path of legality and international duties, and by categorically declaring that they disapprove her present conduct. I repeat, Sir, that we look upon such action as the only means to induce the Cabinet of Athens to change its aggressive attitude, to bring the Greek revolutionary party to reason, and finally to avert a breach between the two Governments after the Sublime Porte has already vainly exhausted all its efforts to prevent matters from coming to extremity.

I request you, Sir, plainly to represent this position of affairs to the Government to which you have the honour to be accredited, and urgently to beg it to address energetic counsels in the above-mentioned sense to the Cabinet of Athens. You will, at the same time, add that in case this step should unfortunately remain without the desired result, and Greece should continue not to fulfil the duties imposed upon her by treaties, the Government of his Majesty the Sultan will, although with regret, find itself compelled to make such arrangements as may be demanded by the interests of self-preservation.

You are empowered to read this present despatch to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Government to which you are accredited, and, should he so desire, to leave with him a copy of the same.

Receive, &c.

AALI.



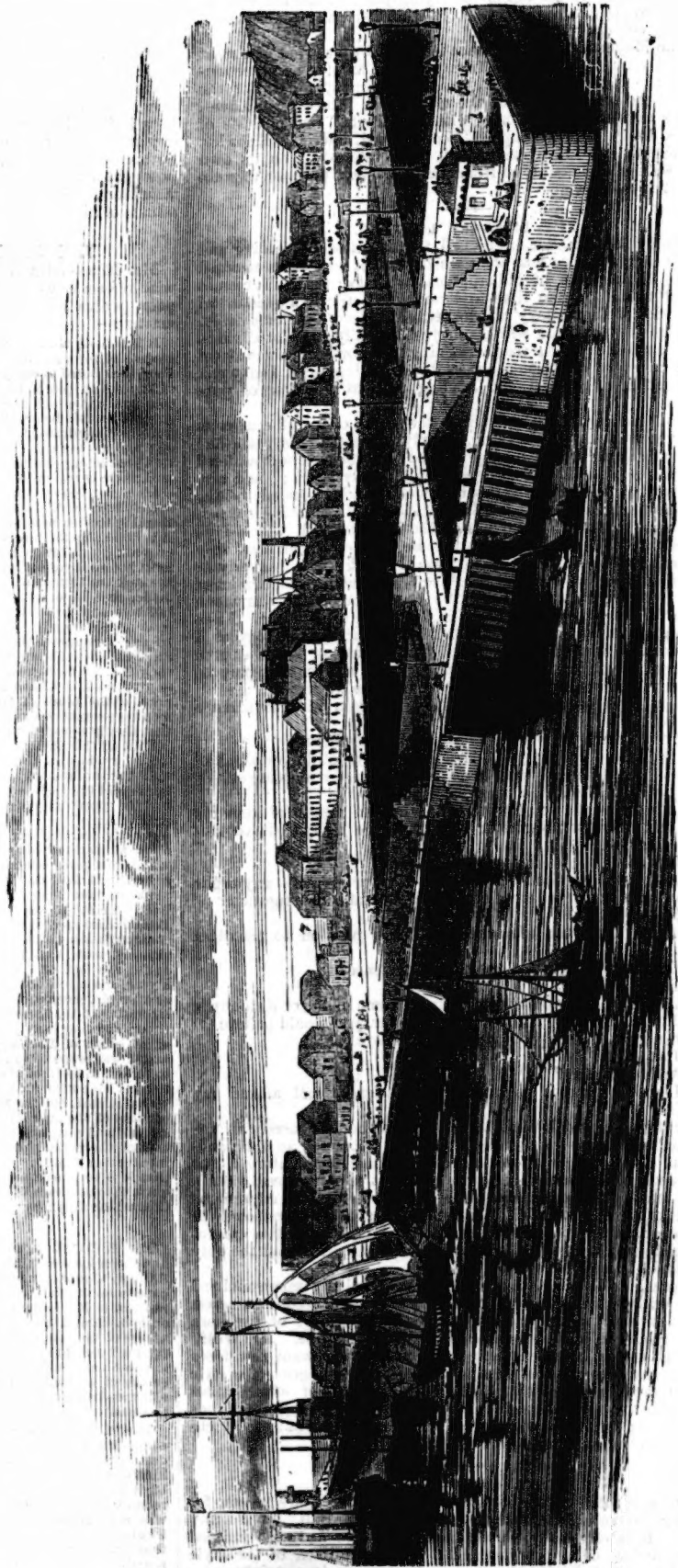
THE NEW REREDOS FOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

THE NEW REREDOS FOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

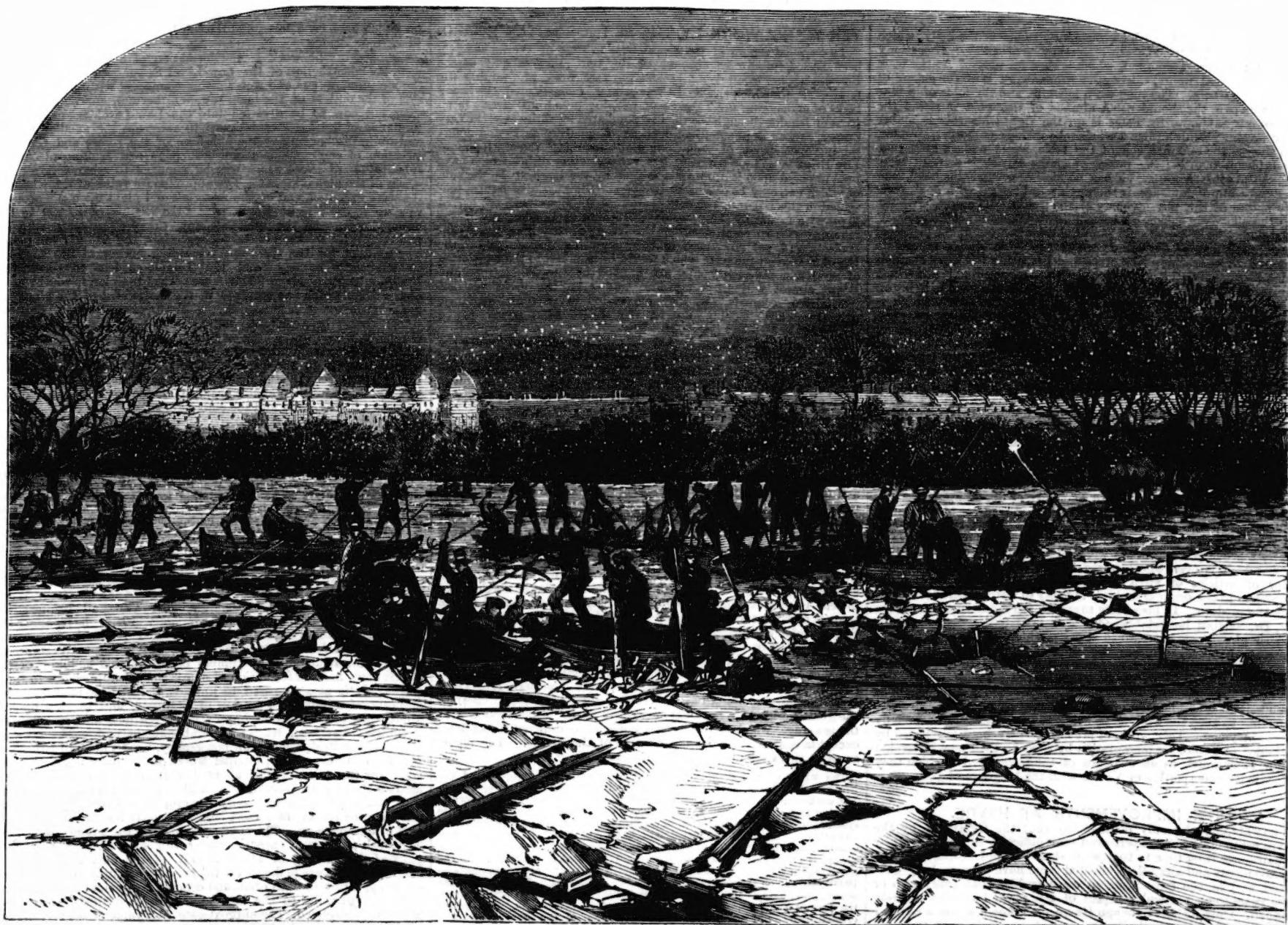
AMONG the many works of art which possessed a peculiar attraction and fascination for the visitor to the late International Exhibition, perhaps the best remembered are the remarkable Venetian mosaics of Signor Salviati, of Venice. The extreme beauty and delicacy of colour of the materials employed, the artistic manner in which they were arranged, and the rich harmony of effect which was produced, rivalling the best specimens of the mosaics of the Middle Ages, excited universal admiration. The leading artists and architects of this country sought for the opportunity of introducing this beautiful decoration into their works; and among those who have given an early patronage to this revived art are her Majesty the Queen, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, Mr. Gilbert Scott, the eminent architect; and Mr. Penrose, the artist engaged in the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral. The adaptability of this style of decoration to public buildings had already been fully tested at St. Mark's, Venice, where a large portion of the valuable mosaics which had perished was restored with extraordinary success, and a space over the large entrance-door of this cathedral, where the subject of the decoration is the *Apocalypse*, is now in the hands of Signor Salviati. The Wolsey Chapel at Windsor has already been decorated by this artist; the whole of the ceiling is complete, and considerable progress has been made with the figures which are to be placed over the blank west window. These figures are to be formed of glass mosaics on gold ground, and they include Henry III., Edward III., Edward IV., Henry VII., Lady Jane Seymour, the Duchess of Exeter, the Earl of Lincoln, the Duke of Suffolk, Henry VI., Henry VIII., Charles I., James II., the Marquis of Worcester, Lord Hastings, Archbishop Beaufort, Matthew Wren, Bruno Ryves, Beauchamp, Archbishop Wykeham, Cardinal Wolsey, Unwin, Turner, Robinson, and

Sutton. The mosaics for the National Albert Memorial, in course of construction in Hyde Park, are also to be provided by Signor Salviati.

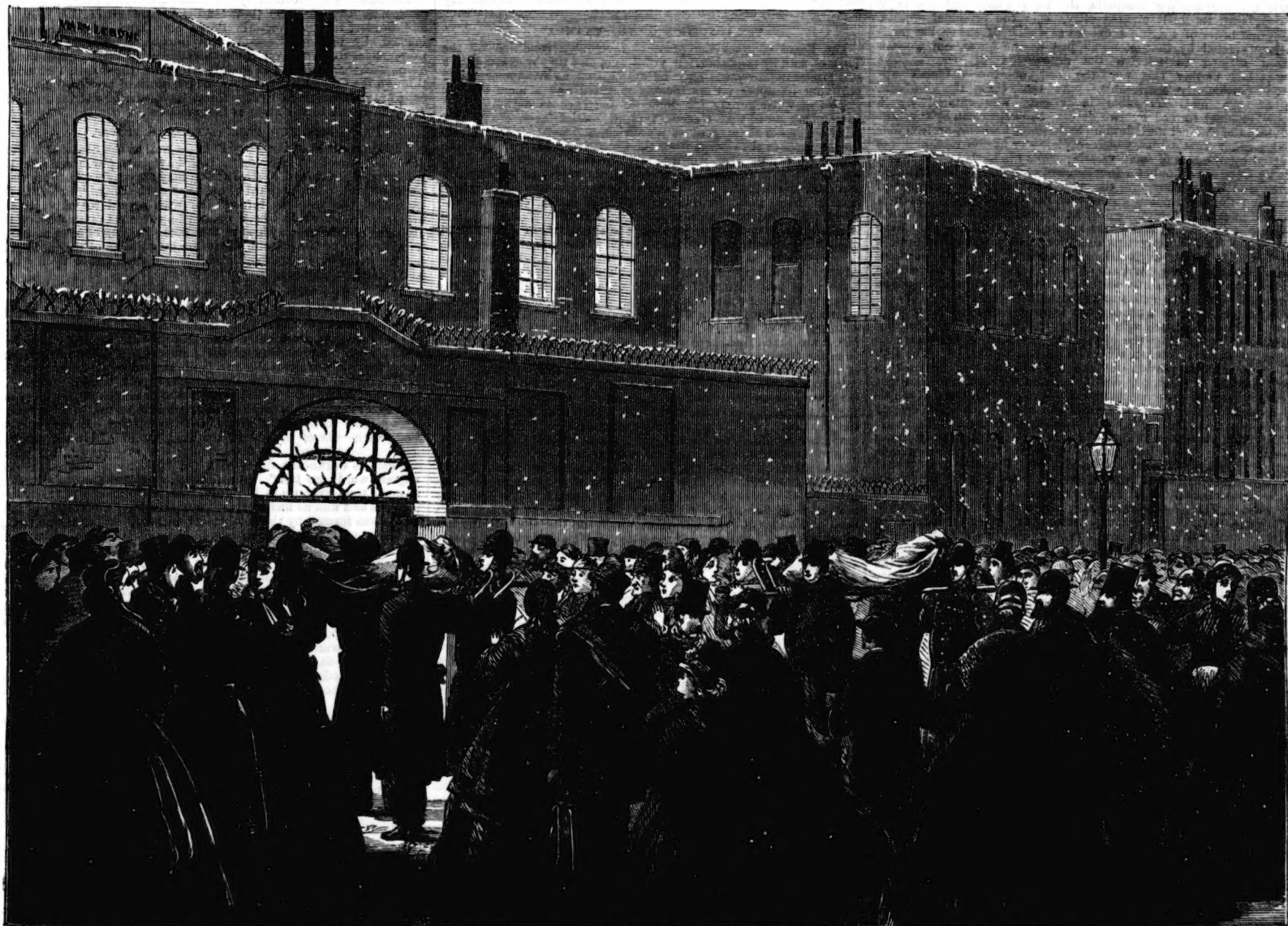
The Dean and Chapter of Westminster, following the example thus set in this country, gave to the distinguished artist a commission for a mosaic picture to be placed in the reredos of Westminster Abbey, which is to replace the plaster screen which has for so long a time done duty in the venerable structure. The altar-piece is to be of alabaster. Some progress has already been made with the work, and the carving, by Mr. Farmer, of Westminster-ward, is approaching completion. The mosaic work, which has arrived from Venice, far surpasses anything of the kind seen in this country, and will form a noble and worthy portion of the fine altar of the Abbey Church of Westminster. The mosaic is about 12 ft. 6 in. in length and 5 ft. 5 in. in height; the subject represented is "The Last Supper." The general arrangement of the group of Christ and the Disciples is somewhat suggestive of Leonardo Da Vinci's great picture. There is, however, more ease and variety in the grouping of the figures. Christ is represented standing, while he is seated in Da Vinci's picture, and there are several other points of detail treated very differently. The cartoon from which the mosaic is made is by Mr. Clayton of the firm of Clayton and Bell. The back ground of the picture is formed of gold glass mosaics; the gold, being introduced between two surfaces of glass, is effectually prevented from discoloration or decay from atmospheric effects. The back is divided into panels, in each of which is introduced some green foliage, and the divisions of the panels are relieved by stars and quatrefoil ornamentation of gold and colour. The table is covered with a cloth, in which the appearance of diaper is produced with marvellous accuracy, and a rich border of gold adds much to the effect of what would otherwise have had a cold and monotonous appearance. Above the panels, and forming a kind of framework to the picture,



NEW ASPECT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE PORT OF HAVRE.



THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN REGENT'S PARK: DRAGGING THE LAKE FOR BODIES.



CONVEYING THE BODIES OF VICTIMS TO MARYLEBONE WORKHOUSE.

are the text, in old English characters:—"This is my body, which is given for you;" "Do this in remembrance of me;" "This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many." At the back of the principal figure, Christ, the groundwork is of the colour of Bohemian garnets. The robe worn is white, and the folds of a blue mantle lie over the shoulder. A nimbus of rich gold is round the head of our Saviour. St. Peter is on the right; his robe is amber and crimson. St. John has a white robe with green border. Judas, who sits on the opposite side of the table, wears a dark grey robe and crimson mantle; the purse which he carries is of dark blue. Unlike the other Apostles, he has no nimbus around his head, and the expression of his face is thoroughly in keeping with one's ordinary notion of the physiognomy of the traitor. The dresses of the Apostles all vary in colour, but harmonise with rare and beautiful effect. A single goblet or cup of gold is on the table in front of the principal figure. The floor of the hall on which the table stands represents grey and white marble. The process of preparing the glass enamels which Signor Salvati has introduced with so much effect is one which requires considerable care and skill. The mode observed is to lay on a ground of thick glass or enamel a leaf of gold or silver, which is attached principally by the action of fire; a film of the purest glass is then spread over it, and the three layers, after being fused, become perfectly united with each other, and form a homogeneous body. In "The Last Supper" the film of glass possesses the requisite thinness and purity; and, the surface exhibiting no inequality of thickness, the metal appears in its native beauty, and the glass with which it is covered is scarcely discernible. The picture is of the Byzantine or monumental description of mosaics, as opposed to the inlaid or marqueterie mosaics—in other words, the enamels are cut into shapes which are not quite regular and geometrical, and put together so that the cement between them is seen. This was the kind used by the ancients, and is the most fitting for the purposes of architectural decorations, both for the interior and exterior of buildings. The cost of the picture, exclusive of fitting up, was £550.

Dr. Salvati was formerly a distinguished member of the Bar at Venice, but in latter years has devoted all his energy and fortune to the restoration of the inventions which, in years gone by, gave to Venice a proud position in the world of art and industry. Venetian glass, which is everywhere prized by the connoisseur and the collector of articles of virtu, is now produced with so close a resemblance to the original that it is not easy to distinguish the ancient from the modern. In his efforts to extend the industry of his native city, Dr. Salvati has established a dépôt in Oxford-street, where his modern glass may be obtained at prices which, allowing merely for the cost of conveyance, are the same as those charged at Venice. Some of our readers may remember that at the late International Exhibition there was exhibited by Dr. Salvati a most remarkable mosaic table, supported by the figure of a negro, and for which as much as £3000 was in vain offered by a wealthy collector, the artist preferring to keep the work as an evidence of what could be done by his countrymen. This work of art has recently been purchased by the ladies of Venice for presentation by them to their new Sovereign Victor Emmanuel, as an evidence of the feelings with which they welcome the incorporation of Venice with the kingdom of Italy.

THE IMPROVEMENTS AT HAVRE.

TRAVELLERS who only occasionally visit the Continent by the Havre route must have experienced some difficulty in renewing their acquaintance from time to time with that fine old seaport, for the improvements and alterations effected there have been so long continued, and at the same time so considerable, that every two or three years some particular aspect of the place has been entirely changed. Only a short time ago Havre was a town where a number of old, wretched wooden houses contrasted strangely with the more modern brick or stone buildings; and, though its streets were fine and regular, they were inclosed by a triple range of ditches supplied with water from the sea, and forming part of those defences of which the surrounding ramparts, the high walls, and the lofty parapet, with its finely-planted alley, were the principal objects. The round tower of Francis I. existed as a relic of the earlier fortifications erected by that monarch, just as the queer, old wooden edifices seemed to survive the destruction of the ancient town; but neither this nor the rest of the defences appeared particularly serviceable. At that time the harbour, one of the most accessible in France, was entered by a narrow channel formed by two jetties, and kept clean by constant dredging, the channel itself leading to the outer harbour, an irregular expanse of no great extent, which was left dry at ebb tide, and was occupied by numbers of small vessels; while the harbour was accessible by large vessels only for four hours of each tide. When it is considered that Havre commands the greater part of the export trade of Paris and the principal towns of the north of France, that it is exceeded in extent of shipping only by Marseilles, and is the seat of a Chamber of Commerce, it is surprising that it should so long have remained in such an imperfect condition; but it was raised from a fishing-village to be a citadel by Francis I., who, at enormous expense, reclaimed a great part of its site from the sea; and the fortifications then erected were superseded by others when Napoleon I. brought his military genius to its reconstruction.

Fortunately, we live in times when happier influences have some power, and in accordance with a better spirit the work of enlarging and effectually repairing the channel of the port of Havre is now completed, and it has taken six years to accomplish it. The first and most difficult portion of the undertaking was finished in 1862, in spite of enormous obstructions to laying the foundations in consequence of the great volume of water and the want of a clay bed in place of the shingle and pebbles of the bottom. The second work was commenced in 1864, and consisted in the establishment of a refuge known as Pilot's Bay, for the purpose of forming a station for pilot and fishing vessels. The third undertaking included the reinstatement of Francis I.'s Tower and the continuation of the Mole as far as Pilot's Bay itself, or the construction of a second breakwater if found to be necessary. This breakwater has since been added, and is now quite complete, forming, with the other erections, a complete system of harbour works, commencing with the north pier and extending to Pilot's Bay. At the end of the north-west pier is an elegant semaphoric pavilion, constructed under the orders of the Chamber of Commerce, in order to replace the signal-mast formerly occupying Francis I.'s Tower. Various military works which have been executed on the Place de Provence have completely changed its aspect; and the old "fosses" of the town have been altogether superseded by the magnificent Boulevard Francois Premier, which unites the jetty in a direct line to the Imperial Boulevard. These works, with many others now in operation in the town itself, will render Havre one of the most beautiful cities in France.

DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.—All accounts tend to show that the distress in the east of London, consequent on the slackness of the ship-building trade and the recent severe weather, is not only very great, but increasing. Hitherto the evil has been dealt with as far as possible by various local organisations assisted by the gifts of the public. This mode of distributing relief has, however, been found to have some mischievous results, and the formation of a central fund distributing relief in a well-considered manner has been urged. The Lord Mayor has taken the matter in hand, and on Monday a committee was formed at the Mansion House for the purpose of receiving subscriptions and dispensing relief. Several subscriptions were immediately handed in, and it is to be hoped many more will follow. The distress is fearful: the relief should be prompt.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—The following circular has been issued by Mr. Disraeli to his supporters in the House of Commons:—"Downing-street, Jan. 17, 1867.—Sir, The meeting of Parliament has been fixed for Tuesday, Feb. 5, when the House of Commons will immediately proceed to the consideration of business of the highest importance. I therefore take the liberty of earnestly requesting your presence on that day." Mr. Gladstone has, in the capacity of Opposition leader, addressed the following circular to his friends and presumed supporters:—"Florence, Jan. 10, 1867.—Sir, The meeting of Parliament has been fixed for Feb. 5; and, as it is highly probable that business of great public importance will come under its consideration at the opening of the Session, I take the liberty of expressing my hope that it may be consistent with your convenience to be in your place on that day."

TEN YEARS' WORK BY THE METROPOLITAN BOARD.

THE annual report of the Metropolitan Board of Works has just been issued, giving an account of the ten years' labours of the Board—labours comprising, besides the vast work of draining the metropolis, for which the Board was primarily constituted, the heavy tasks of embanking the Thames, of forming broad new streets in all parts of London through the thickly-populated localities near the City proper, as well as in suburban districts, of creating parks and maintaining open spaces, of organising and controlling the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and of carrying out various other duties which have been imposed upon it from time to time by the Legislature, the sum of which can only be estimated by the startling array of figures presented in this report. The constitution of the Board was not looked upon with favour by the parochial governors of London, and it was regarded with no small fears by the haters of anything like "centralisation;" yet now, such is the increasing respect paid to the Board that great interests which would have fallen to the legislation of small and different bodies are handed over to the Metropolitan Board almost without a murmur, and even the great vestries, "legislative councils," as they are called in parochial parlance, find themselves looking up to the Board as a power to be respected.

The matters which have been dealt with by the Board during the year with which the report deals are multifarious. Of course, the sewage works of the metropolis and the Thames Embankment are the chief; but besides these the Board has had to deal with railway bills, gas bills, the navigation of the Thames, the reclamation of sewage, the houseless poor, the cattle plague, dangerous businesses in towns, the working of the Petroleum and Metropolitan Gas Acts, and the fire brigade. The following is a summary of the report:—

THE MAIN-DRAINAGE WORKS.

The majority of the main-drainage works have been completed, and the actual cost of what had been done up to the date of the report was £2,198,159. For this sum immense sewers have been constructed large enough not only for the wants of the present population, but for an increasing population of future years, from all the outlying districts of London to Barking and to Cressness, where the sewage is so discharged that it is carried down to the sea. The extent of these sewers may in some way be estimated from the enumeration of a few facts. The Middle-level Sewer north (completed) is upwards of twelve miles in length; a portion of it is in tunnel, and its cost is £349,869 2s. 11½d. The Northern Outfall Sewer works (completed) include the formation of an embankment upwards of five miles in length, having a sewer within it, the erection of ten iron bridges, and the completion of various roads, at a cost of £669,761 18s. 1d. The Northern Outfall Reservoir has been completed at a cost of £172,222; and the Southern Low-Level Sewer has been completed at the cost of about £237,800. Besides the great works there are numerous other works in connection with the sewerage, which of themselves would be considered stupendous, except in contrast with the other works of the Board. The report sums up this work in the following terms:—

The whole of the main-drainage sewers, with the exception of the Northern Low Level, have been completed, and are now in active operation. The works were commenced in January, 1859, and the ceremony of their formal opening took place on April 4, 1865. The total length of sewers forming the system is eighty-two miles; and, in conjunction with the pumping-stations and other works, when completed will have cost about £4,200,000. The extent of area the drainage of which is intercepted and carried off by these sewers is about 117 square miles, having a population of 2,809,000. On the north side of the river the sewage intercepted daily at present amounts to 10,000,000, and on the south side to 4,000,000, cubic feet. In designing the sewers provision has also been made for taking the drainage arising from the present and prospective water supply of the same area, and the increased quantity of sewage. In the construction of the other sewers and works, 318,000,000 bricks and 880,000 cubic yards of concrete have been used, and about 3,500,000 cubic yards of earth excavated. These extensive works, embracing almost every branch of engineering science, have been constructed under buildings and over and under rivers, canals, railways, and roadways, from 26 ft. above to 75 ft. below the surface, without any important casualty or interference with the public convenience or traffic.

THE CONDITION OF THE THAMES.

The Board contrast the present favourable condition of the Thames with its condition ten years ago, and they consider that a still greater improvement may be anticipated as arrangements for purifying its upper waters become matured and a more efficient system of water supply for domestic purposes is organised. It having been stated that cholera, typhus, scarlet fever, croup, and other diseases had appeared at Woolwich, and were attributable to the discharge of the sewage from the Cressness outfall station, the Board, early in the year, directed the engineer (Mr. Bazalgette), in conjunction with Dr. Letheby, to inspect and report on the chemical and other works in the neighbourhood of the northern and southern outfalls, from which it was believed foul odours emanated, and which were erroneously attributed to the sewage outfall works, and it was found that in close proximity to the northern outfall most offensive operations were carried on, such as the manufacture of the manure known as superphosphate of lime, which, it appears, is effected by the mixture of oil of vitriol with coprolites and crushed bones; the manufacture of oil of vitriol, and the distillation of gas liquor and gas-tar—the former being converted into sulphate of ammonia and the latter into naphtha, creosote, and pitch. On the southern side of the river, about half a mile from the southern outfall, it was found that there were two manufactories where the refuse from the London tanneries, known as scutch, which is the scraping of hides, &c., is operated upon. In one of these factories the scrapings of hides, &c., are converted into manure by boiling them for several hours in a weak solution of oil of vitriol, after which they are consolidated in open pits, the refuse from which runs into the Thames. In the other factory, the trimmings of hides, &c., are manufactured into glue, by boiling them in diluted sulphuric acid. The vapours from both of these factories were particularly offensive, and no contrivance whatever was used for condensing them. Nearly opposite these works, on the northern side of the river, works were in course of erection for the distillation of bone oil, which it appears is effected by the carbonisation of bones in making animal charcoal. There was no odour whatever from the sewage: the admirable arrangements made for passing the gases from the sewers and tanks through the boiler fires appeared most effectually to prevent the escape of any unpleasant odour into the air. These views were corroborated by the results of an independent inquiry made under the direction of the War Department.

THE UTILISATION OF THE SEWAGE.

This important question is still under the consideration of the Board, and it is still hoped that, in the course of time, the sewage, which has proved so much trouble to London and cost so much to be carried away from the town, will one day prove a "mine of wealth" by being sold for the cultivation of land. A step towards this desirable end has been taken. A company has been formed to whom the northern sewage has been conceded, on terms by which the Board will receive payments in proportion as the scheme proves profitable. The scheme is the reclamation of the Maplin Sands, on the Essex coast, by means of this sewage, which, it is believed, will change a waste into a cultivated area. Experiments have been made which lead the Board to believe that the scheme will prove successful. The question of disposing of the southern-side sewage has yet to be settled; but there are applications for it on such terms that, while the money of the ratepayers is not spent in speculations, London will share the direct profits of the scheme, which, if successful, will tend to cheapen food in no inconsiderable degree.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT, NORTH.

The Board report, with reference to this important undertaking, that, notwithstanding the difficulties which the contractors have had to contend with in consequence of the financial crisis, and in obtaining the necessary supply of materials, more especially of granite, to keep pace with the work, and in the condition of the labour market, they have made considerable progress with the works. This work is to be executed in three lengths. The first, extending from Westminster Bridge to Waterloo Bridge; the second, from Waterloo Bridge to the eastern boundary of the Inner Temple (the contracts

for which have been let); and the third, from the Inner Temple to Blackfriars Bridge.

Included in the work is the formation of a granite-faced river wall, the construction of the Low-Level Sewer, and the subway for the reception of gas and water mains connected with it; the extension of the outlets of the main sewers hitherto discharging into the river, but now to be diverted into the Low-Level Sewer, and the formation of brick sewers designed to intercept the smaller sewers and drains discharging on the foreshore of the river; and the construction of commodious steam-boat piers and landing-places, in substitution of those which will be removed to make way for the works of the embankment. The approximate value of the whole of the work executed, and of the materials and plant upon the ground, was, up to the 25th of March last, £178,240, and £187,239 to the present time. Of the total amount, the proportionate sum of £159,336 is for works, £10,886 for materials, and £17,017 for plant. The contract for the third and remaining portion of the northern embankment—namely from the Temple-gardens to Blackfriars Bridge, a length of about 900 ft.—has not yet been let, in consequence of the delay which has occurred in the settlement of the plans for the construction of a portion of the Metropolitan District Railway (inner circle) between the railway company and the City Gas Company, whose works abut on the line, and whose interests will be materially affected by the railway works.

With respect to the approaches to the northern embankment, the report states that the Board desired to amend the previous Act by obtaining powers to enable them to provide communication direct between Charing-cross and the embankment.

This bill, the report states,

was introduced into the House of Commons, and referred to a Select Committee, when it was strongly opposed by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, in consequence of the proposed interference with his property by the formation of a new street from Charing-cross to the embankment. The result of that opposition was that the Board considered it prudent to withdraw the clauses in the bill relating to that particular street. The Board, however, have not been able to proceed with the measure, in consequence of the change in the Government and the advanced period of the Session preventing the introduction of the financial bills for providing the means required for these and other contemplated works.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT, SOUTH.

The works at present contemplated for the embankment on the south side of the river consist of a solid embankment from Westminster Bridge to Gun-house-alley, near Vauxhall Bridge; the formation of a roadway of an average width of 60 ft. along the embankment between Gun-house-alley and Lambeth Suspension Bridge; and a footway 20 ft. wide from that point to Westminster Bridge; the removal of a number of dilapidated buildings of the lowest class, and the formation of new streets as approaches to these works. It is also proposed to improve Palace New-road, to widen and otherwise improve a portion of Stangate, and to stop up and appropriate to the general improvement portions of Crozier-street. A contract has been let for the embankment and works between Westminster Bridge and Gun-house-alley, near Vauxhall Bridge, to Mr. W. Webster. The principal works to be done under the contract are the formation of about 4300 ft. in length of river wall, landing-stairs near Westminster Bridge, paved road and foot ways, sunk roadways to the dock and other properties severed by the works, and the construction of a short length of sewer for the drainage of a part of the roadway. The contract sum for these works is £209,000. The work at present executed under this contract consists principally of the driving of about 2245 ft. of the dam and 2280 ft. of staging to an average depth of 15½ ft., clay puddling, dredging, excavating, filling in with earth and concrete. Some of the brickwork for the head walls to the land arches of Westminster Bridge has also been completed. The approximate total value of the preliminary works, executed to the 25th of March last, was £27,000, and up to the date of this report, £39,000.

THE NEW STREETS.

The new streets formed by the Board are Garrick-street, Covent-garden, Southwark-street (between Blackfriars and London Bridges), and Burdett-road, at Victoria Park; and these are to be supplemented by an improvement at Whitechapel, which will place Commercial-road in direct communication with Whitechapel-road—an improvement that will greatly facilitate the passage of traffic through the City; by the removal of the block of houses in Holborn, called Middle-row, and by the formation of the new street from the Mansion House to the Thames Embankment.

THE NEW PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

The long-talked of Finsbury Park as well as the Southwark Park are to be formed. The lands for both have been purchased, and the residents of South and North London may expect shortly to see these parks formed. With regard to open spaces the Board "entertain the hope that the valuable information with regard to manorial and other rights which has been obtained by recent Committees of the House of Commons may lead to the speedy passing of such measures as will secure to the present and future inhabitants of the metropolis and its immediate neighbourhood the perpetual use of open spaces and recreation grounds."

THE METROPOLITAN HOUSELESS POOR ACT.

The Board has to pay to those parishes certified under the Act the payments made for the relief of the casual poor. Before the parishes can register they must show that they provide lodgings and food according to the provisions of the Act, which was passed to throw upon the whole metropolis the burdens formerly borne by a few parishes. So cruelly were the houseless poor treated before the passing of this measure that, despite the principle of the poor law that every applicant should be relieved and tested, poor creatures were nightly turned away to wander in the streets. In fact, a West-End parish—one of the richest and least taxed in the metropolis—had no casual ward; but the difficulty was met by a board placed outside the workhouse doors with the "Notice to Vagrants."—The vagrant wards are full. So hard are the general London guardians to move that, even up to last July, twenty-eight only of thirty-nine parishes and unions had received payments from the common fund, which was formed by the Act passed in 1864. What the sufferings of the deserving poor have been in those parishes which have not come under the operations of the Act are only known to those who interest themselves in the subject. That the system of relief afforded by the Act is the cheapest mode of providing for outcasts and other necessitous persons is shown in the fact that the total amount paid for the year to the twenty-eight parishes and unions, up to July last, both for fitting up wards and for relieving the poor, is only £9268 2s. 6d. The relief amounts to £2118 11s. 9d., and the fitting up of wards to £7149 10s. 11d. Other parishes will be in the next report—as, for instance, Clerkenwell, a parish which, up to last winter, lodged the casuals applying for relief in places which were pronounced by the then Poor-Law Inspector to be truly horrible.

The rest of the report is occupied with subjects which are secondary only in importance to those already touched upon.

THE CASE OF THE TORNADO.—We understand that her Majesty's Government have protested against the decision arrived at in the case of the Tornado, on account of the irregularity and informality of the proceedings in the Spanish Prize Court. There can be no doubt that the evidence against the Tornado is calculated to arouse the gravest suspicions as to her ultimate destination; and it is, unfortunately, only too clear that, if the ship be legally condemned as a Chilean ship of war, her crew may be regarded and treated as prisoners of war. Altogether, the case is one of considerable complication; but there is no reason to apprehend that the Spanish authorities will not eventually do justice in the matter.—*Standard.*

MR. JOHN BRIGHT AND HIS WORKPEOPLE.—Mr. John Bright has again and again been charged with being unpopular with his workpeople in Rochdale, hooted from his premises, and with placarding his mill with "No Irish need apply." The slander has been repeatedly disproved, yet it is still reiterated, even by gentlemen acting in holy orders. However, now the workpeople of Mr. Bright think it high time to interfere, and the other day they met in a body and appointed a deputation to wait upon the hon. member for Birmingham to ask him to consent to receive an address from them, assuring him of their respect and regretting the calumnies heaped upon him by various individuals undeservingly. Mr. Bright consented, and the workpeople are now arranging to hold a meeting on an early day.

Literature.

Yesterday and To-day in India. By SIDNEY LAMAN BLANCHARD. London: William H. Allen and Co.

It is a pity that Englishmen generally can be made to take so little interest in Indian affairs; for, considering the number of people whose welfare is involved in the good government of that country, together with the magnitude of the home interests likely to be affected by the state of affairs in our Eastern empire, the well-being and prosperity of India are subjects second to none in importance to Great Britain—we might almost say, to the world. And yet how comparatively few among us know or care much about how things are going on there! Even in Parliament men fail to appreciate the importance of the matter. Indian debates are listened to with impatience, if listened to at all, speakers being generally left with a most meagre audience on such occasions. The mutiny of 1857 roused up men's minds for a time; but interest soon began to flag after the exciting incidents of the war had passed, and the hard, dry work of reorganisation was begun. One reason for the disinclination hitherto evinced by the House of Commons for Indian debates may have been that the late Sir Charles Wood, who so long represented India in the House, was anything but an attractive speaker; and certainly one cause of the apathy of the general public has been that few interesting or alluring books about India ever came within their reach. Indian literature was generally so characterised by dry and musty details, statistics, revenue returns, records of mortality, and so forth, that even the appetite of the most patient Dryasdust must have revolted against them; or it was so sprinkled with Oriental slang and unpronounceable names as to be utterly unendurable. We hope, however, now that such writers as Mr. Sidney Blanchard have taken up the work, that the study of Indian literature and a knowledge of and interest in Indian affairs will rapidly spread among us. The pages of Mr. Blanchard's book are at once instructive and amusing. We have the state of Indian society described, the merits of recent changes discussed, the wants of the country considered, the grievances of those who have complaints to make fairly stated, and the probable results of many measures now in course of adoption intelligently and hopefully shadowed forth. And throughout all this there is intermingled a vein of lively descriptive narrative and quiet humour that make the work exceedingly agreeable reading. To us the most interesting chapter in the book—most of the contents of which have already appeared in the pages of *All the Year Round* and *Temple Bar*—is the opening one, "The Old Times and the New." This chapter contains a most interesting resumé of the state of affairs in India, "yesterday and to-day"—"yesterday" being understood to signify some twenty years ago, and "to-day" the year of grace 1864. After describing the old, and the new system of appointment to official positions, the grievances of the army, the material progress of the country since the suppression of the mutiny, the extent to which railways and other public works have been constructed, and other interesting and important matters, Mr. Blanchard draws the following graphic picture of

LIFE IN INDIA YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

What cannot fail to impress the new arrival are the social changes which have taken place in India during the last few years. Time was, when the traveller on arriving, say at Calcutta, was such an object of interest to the residents that he might proceed at once to almost anybody's house, and make it his castle as long as he pleased. The barest introduction was sufficient to ensure him a welcome. Now, nobody thinks of going to stay at a private house, unless it be that of a particular friend or connection. There are monster hotels where any number of travellers may be put up, and can be as well accommodated as in Europe; and the new comer who presents a letter of introduction gets only the conventional invitation to dinner—which is most likely to be à la Russe. Time was, when to this dinner (not then à la Russe) he would go dressed in white or nankeen; jacket, waistcoat, and trousers of the same pleasant fabric. After that, came a period when a man was expected to go in a black coat, but was uniformly asked by the host or hostess if he would not have a white jacket instead, which he as uniformly said he would; and the arrangement became such a regular one that people who gave parties always provided jackets for their guests, some of whom, however, who were particular about it, sent their garments beforehand, and kept them furtively in the verandah until it was time to put them on. Now everybody dresses for dinner as they do in Europe, and even white pantaloons are the exception instead of the rule. In past times the hookah was the invariable companion of every male guest. Towards the conclusion of dinner a faint scent filled the air, which heralded the approach of the hookah-badars, of whom each placed the standing bowl of his master's pipe on a little piece of carpet behind his chair, brought the snake round conveniently, and insinuated the mouthpiece into its owner's hand. Then came such a hubble-bubbling as the new generation has never heard, and such a perfume as may be imagined from the composition of the chillum, which, besides tobacco, includes various perfumes and condiments of a sweet character, among which I may mention the article of raspberry jam. Everybody was then supposed to be at the pinnacle of enjoyment—even the ladies liked the odour, and often, it is whispered, produced it for themselves when at home. Now, the scent of a hookah in a house is considered almost irreputable—more especially as it gives rise to surmises that it is not the only manner in which the master of the house accommodates himself to native habits. As for taking a hookah out to dinner, nobody ever dreams of such a thing. Some seven years ago, I saw such a proceeding on the part of one or two old Indians—privileged persons in houses where they were well known—and at the mess of a Native Infantry regiment, about the same time, they were sometimes introduced after dinner. But at the same station (this was in the provinces) a hookah which was brought by some innocent guest to the mess of a "Queen's" regiment so scandalised the Colonel, that there was nothing for it but to take it away as fast as possible. Even up the country, where hospitality is more free than in Calcutta, there are hotels at every station—bad hotels, to be sure, but still hotels—besides the Government bungalows; so that no traveller need have an excuse for intruding upon his friends, unless they particularly wish to be intruded upon.

Anglo-Indians in the present day are almost as sober as any class of persons I know. At dinner-parties people do not sit over their wine even so long as in England, and most of those who are able avoid beer altogether, substituting the lighter refreshment of champagne, which they take *ad ore uaque ad mala*—that is to say, from the soup to the coffee—thus avoiding that "mixing" which elderly gentlemen at home regard with much honour, and which few men in a tropical climate can long stand with impunity.

If any excesses are ever committed, it is by daring men just out from England—bachelors, perhaps, or some monsters of the kind; and, as their proceedings would be much the same anywhere, their faults can scarcely be set down to the Anglo-Indians. Everywhere in society the old character given to Anglo-Indians is fast becoming inapplicable. One hears as little of high play and debt as of delirium tremens; and when our countrymen ill-treat the natives we do hear of it—which accounts for two or three instances of late which have not brought us into very good odour in that respect. A class of domestic scandals, usually including elopements, is also far less frequent than formerly; and, as far as these are concerned, it can scarcely be said that Anglo-Indians are open to greater condemnation than their European neighbours.

On the whole, the change from Yesterday to To-day is decidedly for the better. What the new arrival will miss is a class of people in the country who consider it as their home. The danger which we run is that of becoming too English; of depending upon ourselves too much, and considering the natives too little. Our political policy now is conciliation of the native Princes and aristocracy, in order that we may employ them as our allies in improving the condition of the people. Our social policy should be of a similar kind. It is difficult, I know, to mingle much more with the natives than we do in private life, and the difficulty arises principally on their side. But the attempt should be made, and I hope will be made, and with success, as the settlement of our countrymen extends. At present, nearly everybody lives in India with a view to "home;" all supply themselves from home, as far as in their power, with everything that they eat, drink, and wear; anything "native" is looked upon with contempt; and the time is fast coming—unless a healthy change takes place—when we may meet with hundreds of persons who have been in India, but when we may look for an "Indian" in vain!

Altogether, we have much pleasure in commending Mr. Blanchard's book to the attention of the reading and thinking public.

Fairy Tales. By HENRY MORLEY, Professor of English Literature in University College, London. With Illustrations by C. H. Bennett. A New and Revised Edition. London: George Routledge and Son.

We do not happen to know the history of the fairy and grotesque stories collected, apparently from sources not new, in this volume; but they have a twang, or flavour, of twenty years ago—we mean in the sort of sentiment that pervades them. This sentiment is difficult to describe exactly; but it is that kind of which, in the history of recent literature, the late Mr. Douglas Jerrold may be

said to have been the most striking illustration. Not that in the present stories there is any harping on social contrasts, or any wilful self-conscious, self-enjoying incisiveness of manner, such as characterised the writings of Mr. Jerrold; but that there is a certain designed expansiveness, not without some accent of challenge or defiance in it, which might have been noticed in much of the literature of the time when Mr. Jerrold "flourished." Perhaps this may be more apparent to an eye (like that of the present writer) which has to travel back to arrive at the peculiarities of the popular writing of twenty years ago than to a mind which has passed through the Jerroldian stage while engaged in literature; but the flavour we have spoken of is certainly present in Mr. Henry Morley's little book; and the fact is worth noting, because it is another illustration of a wide general topic which was first broached by Mr. John Morley in his notice of "Guesses at Truth," in the *Fortnightly Review*.

Mr. Henry Morley, however, has so much poetic universality of feeling and so much true artistic skill that no transient mood of general literature would ever decisively stamp work of his; and this collection of fairy tales is one of the best we ever read. It contains, under the mask of a peculiar humour, some really masculine thought, brightened and adorned by a quick yet tender fancy. The little snatches of song scattered up and down the book exhibit so much poetic instinct that the reader pauses over them with some regret that the chiming is so quickly over. No child will be able to understand the parable of Alethe and Dynamis, or these lines:—

The touch is light
That doubles might;
Over the face of her lover
Light is the breath of a maid;

and a good many grown people will not catch the whole beauty of either; but a boy of eight or nine years old will be able to carry away something from every fable and poem in the book. We take leave cordially to commend it to our readers, and to express our pleasure that Mr. Morley has thought it worth while to gather and bind up again these charming flowers of fancy.

Mr. Bennett is a man of genius, and we have only one wish about his drawings—viz., that he would give us less gratuitous grotesque, and fewer designs which have more power than charm. Nobody will dispute the force of the "figure-head" to the story of "Bacon Pie;" but, if everybody is like us, everybody will regret having seen anything so ugly and unforgettable. It is not for want of either love or vision that Mr. Bennett gives us these hard, queer drawings. In the almanack frontispiece of *Punch's* Christmas number this year, his *Virgo* was of even "tear-demanding beauty;" so is the *Toad's Wife* in the present volume. Melilot, too, is pretty; and Siseoo and Silver Tassels (the latter rather plain) have the true innocent sweetness of childhood. There is a little symbolic drawing of a boy catching bees with a net on page 174, which is very noticeable, too, for the mixed beauty and dignity of the child's figure, which is again quite pathetic in its loveliness. We fear it is useless to offer advice to a man of so distinctly marked a genius as Mr. Bennett; but we do most earnestly wish that he would trust a little more to his power over what is beautiful, and leave ugliness of design to artists who have no other way of being impressive: there's plenty of 'em!

Plays and Poems. By CHARLES WADDIE. Edinburgh: Printed for Private Distribution.

It is hard to make out why this book has been printed. What were the passions of the writer? Most probably a strange mixture of vanity, fear, and infirmity of purpose. The vanity of poets may always be taken for granted; fear is implied in the "private distribution;" and "infirmity of purpose" is evidenced in the trespass on that privacy by sending it to the papers for notice. Some years since, it seems, Mr. Waddie published a volume which met with some rough literary handling; and he now gives some "Stanzas written in 1860," when the critics had quite destroyed his good spirits. This is how they begin:—

Ah! did they know the labour hard
That doth oppress the anxious bard—

(that must be quite enough for the reader); but does the "anxious bard" ever think of the "labour hard" endured by the critics—cultivated gentlemen—in reading the rubbish thrust upon them? It is all very well to talk of "how the heart of the minstrel is breaking," but the minstrel should reflect *how the head of the critic is aching*. Mr. Waddie goes through all the sweet things usually said about critics, and wants to know how far they "are right in dealing so severely with new poetry," "at least, those who write conscientiously." He adds the monstrous assertion that "the taste for poetry was never so low as at present," when everybody knows the wonderful popularity, and deserved popularity, of many living poets, and the careful appreciation of the works of the dead. In his introduction Mr. Waddie speaks of the "foolish adulation that some pay to the genius of Shakespeare," and insists that the whole list of dramatists, from Marlowe and Greene to Dryden and Otway, "have written works equal to all but one or two of the best of Shakespeare's." We venture to disagree with him, at the same time admitting the occasional power and beauty in many of the works indicated. After much more—after "all about" the drama and criticism—some better plays might have been expected from Mr. Waddie. But, he says, "plays are written for exhibition on the stage, and lose one half of their charm if they miss the chief end of their being." True enough. This volume may be said to have thus lost half its charm; and the other half must have mysteriously disappeared. The tragedy is seldom poetic—the comedy is invariably incomprehensible. Mr. Waddie must understand that we have read his plays, and cannot understand how one of them could have met with a "flattering" reception from a large audience on an Edinburgh stage. But if the audience professed to approve it, it may have been a "flattering" reception indeed—giving that word its proper, not its vulgar, meaning.

The Great Libel Case: Dr. Hunter v. Pall Mall Gazette. London: C. Mitchell.

We have received a thick volume of 404 pages, which purports to be "a verbatim report of the medical evidence (in the above case) given by Dr. Williams, Dr. Risdon Bennett, Dr. Orlando Markham, Dr. George Johnson, Dr. Cotton, Dr. Richard Quain, and Dr. Odling, showing their opinions on the nature, causes and cure of consumption, with explanatory remarks by Dr. Hunter, the plaintiff." We presume the copy of this book delivered at our publishing-office has been sent there by Dr. Hunter, who must by that act be understood to invite criticism. In this, however, we are unable to gratify him, and that for two reasons: first, because it does not fall within our province to discuss scientific medical theories; and, second, because we are afraid Dr. Hunter is a dangerous man to discuss any subject with. When criticised in a way distasteful to himself, he flies to law; and when disappointed in law, he has recourse to what looks remarkably like indiscriminate abuse of all he deems his foes. In the "Introduction" and "Notes" to the evidence contained in this volume Dr. Hunter falls foul of most of the persons engaged in the late trial—Judge, jury, counsel, and witnesses—whom he accuses of ignorance, jealousy, malice, misrepresentation, and so on. He may be justified in this; he may be right in his medical theories also; he may be, as he says, an excessively ill-used man. We don't want to engage in discussion with Dr. Hunter, so we will deny nothing that he has asserted; but we can't help thinking, after glancing over the contents of the volume before us, that he, who so loudly "urges justice" might "have justice, more than he desires," did any of the parties concerned deem him or his abuse worthy of notice; but that, we dare say, they will not.

Zaida's Nursery Note-Book. For the use of Mothers. By A. L. O. E., Author of "Shepherd of Bethlehem," "Rescued from Egypt," &c. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

This neatly-printed and handsomely bound little book purports to be a record of the occurrences in a nursery noted down and com-

mented on by a mother, and intended to be useful to mothers in the moral, religious, and intellectual training of their children. Perhaps we cannot do better than copy the author's preface, with the remark that we approve both the plan of the work and the style in which it has been worked out. In the preface, then, we are told that:—

This little work has been written for her Christian sisters by one who, though not herself a parent, has known practically some of the duties and responsibilities connected with the name of a mother. The note-book contains no stirring events; thousands of British parents could pen such a simple record of the trifling incidents of daily occurrence in the little nursery world. To any but those connected with children, such incidents may appear too insignificant to be worthy of any notice. But if "trifles form the sum of human things," this is especially the case as regards the nursery. A seed is a small, worthless object to the eye, but not to the mind when regarded as enfolding the future plant with its leaves, blossoms, and fruit. Pride, selfishness, self-will—the deadly foes of man—first assail him in the nursery; and like the fabled snakes in the olden tale, may be overcome even by a child. I shall be thankful if any hints contained in my little work be made useful to Christian mothers; those to whom the Saviour has especially committed the sacred office of feeding His lambs.

The Good Child's Coloured Picture-Book. With Twenty-four Large Plates. London: Routledge and Sons.

Another book for children! Good children, indifferent children, and even, we should suppose, bad children, must surely by this time have had their literary and artistic tastes sufficiently provided for. But, surely, this particular child's book comes a little after the fair. All the Christmas presents and New-Year's gifts must have been bestowed long ere this; and we fear that not even its general excellence will suffice to bring buyers sufficient—for the present, at least—to compensate Messrs. Routledge for the charges they must have incurred in producing this very handsome volume. We hope, however, that there is a good time coming, both for the publishers and those specially good children who shall deserve, and be lucky enough to obtain, a copy of "The Good Child's Coloured Picture Book," which we may safely predict will be deemed a high prize indeed. We may mention that the pictures embrace illustrations of natural history, juvenile games, and of the story of "The House that Jack Built"—all neatly printed in colours. The paper and binding, as is usual with Messrs. Routledge's books for children, are of a very superior character.

The Works of J. Fenimore Cooper: The Waterwitch, The Last of the Mohicans. Author's Unabridged Edition. London: Routledge and Sons.

Fenimore Cooper's novels for sixpence each, unabridged, and well printed on tolerably good paper! Think of that, ye book-fanciers! Or, rather, do not think about it at all, but hie to the nearest bookshop, clap down your sixpence, pick up either of the two volumes published, and give yourself a literary treat.

The Conscript: A Tale of the French War of 1813. Translated from the French of MM. ERCHMANN-CHATRIAN. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This story was noticed in our columns on its first appearance in an English dress; and the fact that another edition is already called for shows that it is likely to become nearly as popular here as in France, where sixteen thousand copies have already been sold.

THE SHORT TIME AGITATION.—During the past week there have been public meetings of the operative cotton-spinners, weavers, card-room hands, &c., in almost every town and manufacturing village in East Lancashire, to hear the reports of the deputations who had waited upon the several employers, and to take action thereon. The reports were of an indefinite character, but a few were calculated to inspire the operatives to renewed exertions to obtain a general adoption of short time, as a successful mode of relieving the present depression in trade. In no case have the employers of East Lancashire yet adopted short time, nor agreed to the establishment of a court of arbitration for the settlement of disputes; but the present crisis is likely to force short time upon the trade, and some manufacturers already fear that they will have shortly to run their mills three or four days per week, as urged by the operatives.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—On Tuesday night, at the termination of a lecture on ethnology, delivered by Professor Huxley to an audience which filled the theatre of the London Mechanics' Institute in Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, the lecturer said that he had received a letter as he entered the building which he would not take the responsibility of declining to read, although it had no reference to the subject under consideration. He then read the letter, which was simply signed "A Regular Attendee at Your Lectures," and which in a few words drew attention to the appalling distress existing among the population out of work in the East-End, and suggested that all those present at the lecture that night should be allowed the opportunity of contributing one penny or twopence each towards a fund for their relief, and that the professor should become the treasurer for the evening. This suggestion was received by the audience with marks of approval. The professor said he would not put any pressure on anyone; he would simply place his own subscription in one of the skulls on the table. This he did, and all the audience, coming on the platform, threw in money in copper and silver until the novel cashbox was filled with coin, which amounted to a large sum. A gentleman present expressed a hope that the example set by that audience might be followed with good results wherever large bodies assembled either for educational or recreative purposes.

SEASONABLE WEATHER.—Who will undertake the revision of those current proverbial expressions which convey only half truths when they are not absolutely negated by common experience? Thus it is written that "A green winter makes a fat churchyard," but the "modern instance" exemplifies almost the complete antithesis of the "old saw." If statistics are worth anything, they speak very plainly in favour of the "green" winters, as against the white, hard seasons, whose charms poets and painters have magnified beyond bounds. Disciples of the "muscular Christianity school" hail the advent of bracing "seasonable" weather which, to them, imparts a buoyant elasticity of frame and spirits highly exhilarating; but for the old and the very young—for those who cannot, as the phrase goes, "stand the cold," or to whom the essentials of abundant food and artificial external warmth are denied—a sharp winter is apt to be the messenger of death. The danger both to children and to old people is, of course, lessened as the effects of cold are mitigated; and medical men know that by keeping patients sealed up, as it were, in their houses with a sustained temperature the depressing influence of frosts and piercing winds can be counteracted. Unhappily, in this great city thousands of men, women, and children are in such a miserably poor condition that under present arrangements the weakest of them succumb, some from want of food, others from exposure, and more from diseases of the respiratory organs, when the weather becomes severe. In his last return the Registrar-General tells us that "the change of temperature has killed about 455 people in London" in one week. The mean temperature of the air at Greenwich fell from 44 deg. in the week ending Dec. 23 to 25.2 deg. in the first week of the present year, and the effect of the cold is shown in the succeeding week by an increase in the deaths from 1437 to 1891. "Few were directly frozen to death, the majority having vital force enough to struggle against the freezing cold; but not enough to prevent them succumbing under bronchitis and other affections." In the last week there was an increase of 197 deaths from bronchitis alone; and of the total excess of 454 deaths, 253 occurred to persons aged 60 years and upwards, 120 occurred between the ages of 40 and 60, 45 between the ages of 20 and 40, and 36 under 20 years of age. This shows that the power of resisting cold is greatest at the age of full bodily development, and least when the tide of life is ebbing. Dr. Farr, in discussing the effects of the cold weather of 1855 on the public health, came to the conclusion that the power of cold on life varies according to definite laws. It was found by investigation that the mortality by cold is twice as great under the age of 20 as the mortality at 20-40; but after that turning point the power of resisting cold decreases every year, and men aged 90, in comparison with men aged 30, suffer from the cold in the proportion of 100 to 1. As the general result of five weeks' observation, it is stated that the "danger after 30 of dying of cold is doubled every nine years of age;" that is to say, out of an equal population, for one death by cold at 30 there were two at 39, four at 48, eight at 57, and so on. Should the present severe weather continue some weeks, we shall see how far the hypothesis of 1855 holds good; if the conditions under which the population now live have changed for the better, the general power of resisting cold ought to have increased *pro rata*. Of the great cities of the kingdom, London, Manchester, Sheffield, and Glasgow are the only ones whose death-rate increased to any great extent in the last return. In the other cities, notwithstanding a very low temperature, the mortality was little more than one per 1000 in excess of the previous week. In Leeds, for instance, the lowest reading of the thermometer in the week ending Jan. 5 was 5 deg., or 14 deg. lower than was registered in London at the same time; but the mortality was only raised from 30 to 31 per 1000. Does this mean that the poor are better cared for in Leeds, in Bristol, in Birmingham, in Edinburgh, than in London?—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

EFFECTS OF THE LATE EARTHQUAKE IN ALGERIA.



BOURBEATI'S TAVERN, EL-AFROUN.



HÔTEL DU ROULAGE, EL-AFROUN.

OUR Engravings represent the effects of the terrible calamity at Algiers of which the particulars have only just reached us. The first intelligence that came from the town of Algiers itself gave very few details of the extent of the mischief; but a correspondent, writing immediately after the occurrence on the night of the 2nd

inst., says that he was awoke on the morning of that day by an extraordinary shock, which consisted, not of the usual trembling and rumbling, but produced the sensation of being inclosed in a box which was being "shoved along by several angry pushers over rough ground, and always in one direction." The movement came dis-

tinctly from the sea and went inland, and while it lasted the house seemed hopping from north to south, and proceeding onward that way. This was succeeded by the usual trembling, and by a swinging motion. The letter goes on to say that several houses had fallen in, that the people were sitting in the rain in the open places,



ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL HOUSES IN MOUZAIAVILLE.



PRINCIPAL STREET OF MOUZAIAVILLE.

and that all the Jews had fled to the fields. There was a report that the town of Medeah had suffered greatly, and that at Blidah forty houses had been destroyed. The illustrations which we publish this week and the following account refer more particularly to these places, where the calamity has

been most severely felt. Blidah (the Bidah Colonia of Ptolemy) is situated at the foot of the Little Atlas, at the entrance of a deep valley, twenty-nine miles south of Algiers. The environs of this town are rendered beautiful by the numerous orange-groves, which fill the air with their delicious perfume; while fruitful corn-fields

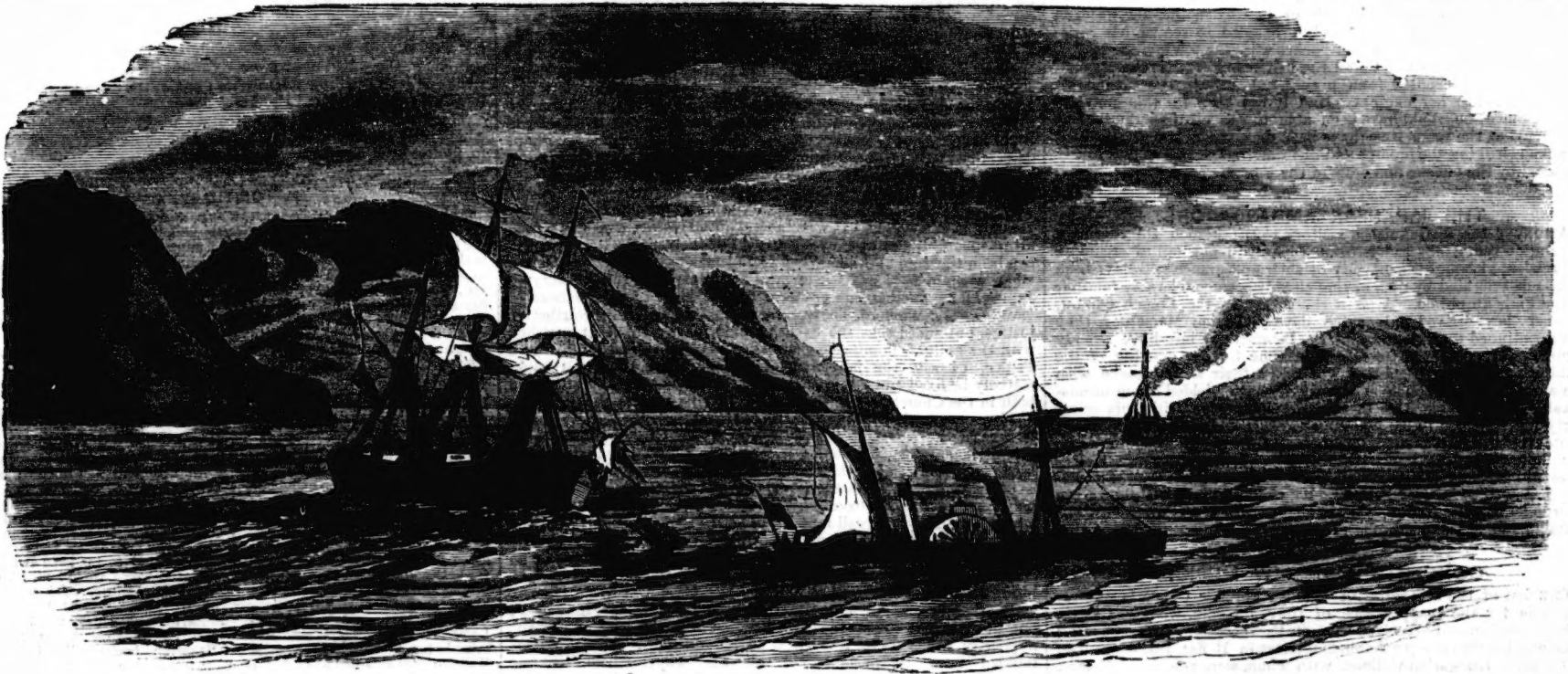
cover the sides of the adjacent mountains. At the entrance of the city you find a cemetery, with peculiar sepulchral stones, aerial minarets, cupolas, and tile-covered roofs inclosed in groves of trees. A beautiful vegetation made Blidah one of the loveliest spots in Algeria, and its inhabitants called it the second Damascus. The



GENDARMERIE, MOUZAIAVILLE.



TOWNHALL, MOUZAIAVILLE.



RESCUE OF THE BRITISH BARQUE ARAUCA BY THE FRENCH MAIL STEAM-PACKET GUYANE.

interior of the town is well built, and with regular streets, wider than those of Algiers. It is surrounded by a high wall, with gates corresponding with the cardinal points, and communicating by a street which goes round the interior of the town. The greater part of the old town was destroyed by an earthquake in 1825; but it was rebuilt on the same site, under the name of New Blidah, the houses resembling those of Algiers, some of them looking into an inner court, and surmounted by a terrace.

Omnibuses pass daily through Blidah on their way to Medeah, the road to which, through the Lesser Atlas, crosses the river Chiffa sixty-two times, and is an amazing example of engineering skill in overcoming obstacles, a way having been made through the defiles of the mountain by confining the river and blasting the rocks, which approach so nearly together in some parts as scarcely to leave room to pass. The appearance of Medeah is very different from that of Algiers in the construction of the houses, all which are built of stone and whitewashed with lime; but the interiors are the same, consisting of a ground floor, a first story, and gallery supported by pillars. Medeah contains many fountains in the walls, a Moorish coffeehouse, and a caravansary. Two roads lead from Algiers to Medeah, the oldest of which is over the Col de Mouzaiah. The view on this road is enchanting, and consists of a belt of gardens round Medeah, orange-groves, cork and oak woods, with wild olives clothing the hills, and groves of palm and fig trees. This character of scenery is maintained in the environs not only of Blidah but amongst the villages of Mouzaiah and El-Afroun; superb gardens and a rich soil, where the aloe sends up blossoms to the height of 20 ft. and rushes overtop the houses, where wild laurel flourishes and the fig and pomegranate groves stretch as far as the eye can reach, are the features of the country the inhabitants of which have just been subject to such a dire catastrophe.

Unlike the shocks at Algiers, where no great damage was done, the convulsions were repeated in these districts, and were much more violent. At Blidah the first shock was awful, and the frightened inhabitants had barely time to escape from their houses before the buildings themselves rocked from their foundations. Not a single edifice is uninjured, and a great number have fallen into utter ruin. The cathedral remains standing, but its walls have been so severely injured that on the following Sunday Divine service was performed in the open air. This shock was followed by two others, which, although not so violent as the first, completed the work of destruction. No one dared to seek the shelter of the houses; and, in spite of a torrent of rain, the entire population was compelled to bivouac under tents sent from Algiers by the Administration. In the district situated at the foot of the Atlas the devastation has been, if anything, still more dreadful: the villages of Chiffa and Ban-Roumi, lately so flourishing, are half in ruins; while those of Mouzaiah and El-Afroun are entirely destroyed. In these villages the convulsion was so violent and instantaneous that the work of destruction was completed with awful rapidity. Every house was crushed, and many of the unfortunate inhabitants overwhelmed in the ruins. At El-Afroun eighteen persons were killed and sixty seriously injured; at Mouzaiah forty-eight were killed and more than a hundred sustained injuries more or less severe. Out of 160 buildings the church alone remains standing, but that is in such a dangerous condition that no one is allowed to enter. On the first news of the disaster assistance was immediately sent from Algiers: tools were forwarded, and soldiers and labourers worked together in order to recover the dead and injured people from the ruins. It was a strangely-moving spectacle to witness the promptitude and energy of the soldiers and the patient resignation of the suffering people. No time was lost in digging out the ruins; and, with that swift pro-

vision of expedients which makes the French soldier so useful in emergencies, temporary dwellings were erected with marvellous quickness, while materials were prepared for rebuilding the villages when the work of searching for the dead and wounded was complete. One of our Illustrations shows the tavern at El-Afroun, from which the bodies of poor little Francois Bourbeati and his sister were recovered, and placed beside those of nine other children, all of whom had perished. An inhabitant of Milianah writes that the Zaccar, the mountain on which the place is built, not only shook, but was enveloped in a smoke-like mist. The houses there have been seriously damaged, and at the hospital the sick people were thrown out of their beds; while at the barracks there was a momentary panic, which caused a rush to the door, where the soldiers scrambled over each other in their sudden effort to escape. Medeah and the surrounding villages have also felt the effects of the calamity, and the road from Blidah has become almost impassable, in consequence of the ruins with which it is covered.

RESCUE OF THE BRITISH BARQUE ARAUCA BY THE FRENCH MAIL STEAM-SHIP GUYANE.

WE are able this week to publish an illustration of the great service rendered by the French mail steam-ship, on her way to Cayenne, to the British barque Arauca, from Glasgow. This vessel had come to grief off that delightful coast of the island of Trinidad, between which and the mainland of Venezuela lies the large gulf of Paria, entered by two narrow passages, formed by promontories approaching the mainland. The southernmost of these, the Serpent's Mouth, is often a mere mass of mud deposited by the currents that sweep up from the mouth of the Amazon; the northern entrance, which is called the Dragon's Mouth, is deeper



THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS.

and calmer, and it was near here, and about twelve miles north-east of the island, that the Arauca had gone aground.

The mail-boat of the General Transatlantic Company had called at Spanish Port, and there the Lieutenant was informed that an English vessel was making signals of distress in the low water in that direction, and he immediately proceeded to render her assistance. In a short time the mail-boat was seen towing the barque through the Dragon's Mouth, an English vessel of war, the Gannet, being at first prevented from giving any help in consequence of some accident to her engines. Had it not been for this unlucky circumstance she would have been able to get off the Arauca; but we should at the same time have been deprived of the gratification of acknowledging the prompt and disinterested service so generously rendered by the officers and crew of the French vessel.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS.

AMONGST the distinguished visitors to the French International Exhibition the Ambassadors from Japan will not fail to create an impression, although the novelty of their appearance will have been a little deteriorated by their having already become tolerably familiar to the Parisian public. After a short stay in the French capital, whither they arrived only a few days ago from Marseilles, they have continued their journey to St. Petersburg; but have already signified their intention to return in time for the opening of the Exhibition building, when they will renew their acquaintance with the amusements, which seem already to have yielded them unmistakable satisfaction. One of the first interviews with this select party was accorded to M. Nadar, who was commissioned to make photographs of its different members, and from these photographs our Engraving has been taken. The Ambassadors are Koide-Yamato-no-Kami, Minister Plenipotentiary, and Tsi-Sourounga-no-Kami, and they appear seated. The officer on the right is the interpreter, Siga-Urataron, who is thoroughly acquainted with the French language, and the officers in attendance make up the group.

CONCERTS AND NEW MUSIC.

THE first of the new series of Monday Popular Concerts was remarkable for the reappearance of Herr Joachim, who was never more enthusiastically received than on this occasion. The opening piece was Beethoven's posthumous quartet in B flat, led, of course, by the great Hungarian violinist, with whom were associated Messrs. Ries, Blagrove, and Piatti. Herr Joachim's solos were a slow movement from one of Bach's sonatas; a gavotte from a sonata by a French violinist, Leclair, who flourished in the early part of the last century; and the prelude to Bach's sonata in E—this last piece being given in place of Leclair's gavotte, which was encored. The piano-forte soloist was Mr. Charles Hallé, who played Beethoven's sonata in F minor in his usual masterly style. The one vocalist at this concert was Miss Louisa Pyne, who sang an air, "L'Ombrosea vien," from Hummel's "Matilda von Guise," and "Batti, batti."

The second concert of the new series (Monday last) was even more attractive than the first. Beethoven's quartet in C major, the most generally popular of the three dedicated to Count Rasoumovsky, was executed to perfection—the executants being Messrs. Joachim, Ries, Blagrove, and Piatti. Herr Joachim's playing in the *andante con moto* was especially beautiful, and called forth loud applause. The finale was also received with the enthusiasm which it can scarcely fail to elicit. Mr. Sullivan's melodious "Arabian love-song," sung to perfection by Mr. Sims Reeves, was much applauded, and encored. Beethoven's "Adelaide," sung by Mr. Sims Reeves to the accompaniment of Mme. Arabella Goddard, had also, as a matter of course, to be repeated, and the applause was quite as enthusiastic after the second as after the first performance. The great instrumental piece of the evening was Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata," the most difficult of all that master's sonatas to grasp mentally as a whole, and, with the exception of the famous Waldstein sonata and the stupendous one in B flat, the most trying to the mechanical resources of the player. In a poetical sense, the "Sonata Appassionata" may be ranked first among the glorious "32" which, if Beethoven had composed nothing else, would have made the art his debtor for a legacy, in its way, without parallel. It is not surprising that ambitious pianists should delight to exhibit their powers in this wonderful work, nor, taking into consideration the difficulties it presents, that so very few should have succeeded in doing it justice. Among the few who have succeeded, Mme. Arabella Goddard occupies a prominent place. Perhaps no pianist with whom the English public is acquainted has played the "Sonata Appassionata" so often, and certainly none so well. Her performance was magnificent from first to last—the impassioned character of the first allegro, the exquisite repose of the adagio, and the fiery impetuosity of the finale being all expressed to perfection. At the end of this very fine performance, to which the audience listened with breathless attention throughout, Mme. Goddard was enthusiastically recalled. The splendid sonata for violin and piano in C minor (the second of the three dedicated by Beethoven to the Emperor Alexander of Russia) was performed by the same lady, with Herr Joachim for associate.

The orchestral popular concerts at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE continue to have attraction. Every Thursday evening is devoted to classical music, which Sig. Arditì has learnt to conduct as well as the (to him) more familiar music of Italian opera.

Engel's Harmonium Album. Chappell and Co.

This handsome, well-bound, clearly-printed album, which has now reached a third edition, contains fifty melodies by the principal Italian, German, and English operatic composers. The airs are preceded by a complete set of instructions for playing the harmonium; which, coming from such an esteemed professor as Herr Engel, possesses peculiar value.

Swing-Song. Illustration for the Pianoforte. By CH. FONTAINE. *May-Day.* Waltz. By CH. FONTAINE. London: Metzler and Co.

"Swing-Song" is a pianoforte piece, with a well-balanced melody, suggestive of swingings. As to its attractiveness, it may be sufficient to state that it has now reached its tenth edition.

The "May-Day" waltz is the very thing so many young pianists are always looking for—something brilliant and showy, yet remarkably easy.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The tariff of the prices of admission to the Paris Exhibition has now been published. There are to be three separate inclosures—the park, containing the Exhibition building itself; the Horticultural Gardens; and the Billancourt inclosure, which is especially devoted to agricultural matters. The prices for the first week are exceptional—20f. for the opening day and 5f. for the rest. From April 8 the charge for admission to the park will be 1f., that to the garden 1f. 50c. The inclosure Billancourt will have a special tariff, as yet undetermined. The price of a season ticket will be 100f. for a gentleman and 60f. for a lady. In order to avoid the trouble and delay of the signatures, which were formerly required on entering, the holders may send two of their photographed portraits—one to be affixed to the ticket of admission, the other to remain in the hands of the administration. There will also be issued cards of admission for a week, subject to the same conditions, and conferring for the time the same privileges as the season tickets.

THE WAGES DISPUTE IN THE IRON TRADE.—A large meeting of iron-workers was held at Brierley-hill on Monday, at which a lengthy account of the present state of trade and the condition of the labour-market was given, and, after some discussion, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting, having heard with astonishment and regret the unfortunate aspect of the state of the labour-market, and the consequent starving condition of many families which are not directly connected with the Ironworkers' Association, do hereby acknowledge that our chief officers' deliberate decision to recommend us to accept the deductions has been impelled by the best motives. We, having every confidence in their wisdom and efficient judgment, do reluctantly consent to commence operations on Tuesday evening (if required by our employers), although we still hold our opinion that if the labour-market is overstocked, that there is no cause for a reduction; it is, therefore, both unjust, unequal, and consequently unwarrantable." A numerously-attended meeting was also held at Bilston, at which a similar resolution was agreed upon. The men, however, expressed a hope that when trade might improve the masters would give advanced wages without making it necessary that the men should strike.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON CROMWELL.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH has been delivering lectures on English political history at Manchester. The second lecture of the course, on "Cromwell," was delivered on Monday evening, on which occasion Lord Amberley, M.P., took the chair.

In describing Cromwell's rise to power, the lecturer paused only upon two points. One was the execution of the King. Cromwell tried to save the King's life, but was prevented by the King's persistence in perjury. Probably Cromwell would even have left him his crown, could he have been trusted to keep to terms. That the execution was a fatal error of policy one so sagacious as Cromwell could hardly have been altogether unaware. His course was perhaps determined by a real sympathy with the feelings of his soldiery, who cried for impartial justice against offenders. Nothing, unhappily, could be less true than Carlyle's remark that the execution "struck a damp like that of death through the heart of Flunkeyism universally in the world." It was Liberty, if anything, that has "gone about incurably sick of it ever since." The blood of the Royal martyr has been the seed of Flunkeyism from that day to this. What man, what woman, feels any sentimental attachment to the memory of James II.? Another dark spot was the slaughter of the garrisons of Drogheda and Wexford. The lecturer noticed the excuses of retributive justice, but added that the excuse failed if any innocent perished with the guilty. Coming to the review of Cromwell's character as a Prince, he said the judgment of history upon Cromwell could scarcely be fixed until the settlement of great questions still open both in the Church and in the State. In this lecture the goodness of his cause would be taken for granted, and the only inquiry would be whether he served it faithfully and well. Of his genius there was little question. Although it was long before law-loving England could forgive one who seemed to have set his foot on law, yet as often as danger threatened the thought returned—not that we may have again a Marlborough or a Black Prince, but that the race which produced Cromwell may at its need produce his peer, and the spirit of the Great Usurper may once more stand forth in arms. Of Cromwell's honesty there was more doubt. Who could hope, in so complex a character, to distinguish accurately the impulses of ambition from those of devotion to a cause? Cromwell was a fanatic, and all fanatics are morally the worse for their fanaticism; but his conduct proved that his religion was sincere. Constant hypocrisy would have been fatal to his decision. The double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. The lecturer declared himself no devotee of the religion of hero-worship. Great men were most precious gifts of heaven, and unhappy was the nation which cannot produce them at its need. But their importance in history become less as civilisation goes on. In the last great struggle which the world has seen the Cromwell was not a hero, but an intelligent and united nation. To whatever age they may belong, the greatest and most godlike of men are men, not gods. Cromwell said, "Paint me with all my wrinkles." Carlyle in his memoir had done (with his genius he could not fail to do) well; he would have done better had he paid his hero the homage of simple truth. This hero-worship, said the lecturer, becomes the worship of mere force, which is no more adorable than mere fraud, the force of those who are physically weak. To moral force we may bow down; but moral force resides, and can reside, in those only whose lives embody the moral law. It is found in the highest degree in those at whom hero-worship sneers. Hero-worship sneers at Falkland; yet Falkland, by his purity and his moderation, has touched and influenced the hearts of his countrymen for ever. Mr. Smith then proceeded to show that arbitrary power was not dear to Cromwell's heart. He was great enough, and felt himself great enough, to reign among the free. An ignoble nature like that of Bonaparte might covet despotism. A noble nature never cared for the affection of a dependent or for the obedience of a slave. Cromwell was the only man in a position to found a Government after the Revolution. Then, and throughout his reign, he quelled anarchy, as he had quelled tyranny, and with a merciful economy of punishment, which shows how different is the vigour of the brave from the vigour of ferocious cowards. The lecturer spoke of the Long Parliament with respect and gratitude, but said its continued government would have been the tyranny of a section. When Cromwell was set up by the army it was not a government of musketeers and pikemen. That would be the greatest of calamities, the deepest of degradations; and how to escape the danger of such government, which threatened all European nations in their critical transition from the feudal aristocracy of the past to the democracy of the future, was now the pressing question for us all. The soldiers of Cromwell were the best of English citizens. They were themselves the Revolution, and had neither right nor inclination to set up military tyranny, but had a right to give a chief to the State and support his government. He was no Caesar or Bonaparte; no unprincipled soldier of fortune; but Puritanism armed and crowned. In both the English and the French Revolution the most religious part of the movement was the deepest. So it was in all movements. Beneath all the social and political revolutions now going on did we not perceive a revolution in religion?—a revolution which might one day clothe itself in some form of power and cast the world again in a new mould. The form of government which Cromwell (after he had attained supremacy) meant to found was a monarchy, with himself as King. But it was to be a Constitutional and Protestant monarchy, with Parliamentary government and taxation, reform of the representation, the service of the State freely opened to merit, law reform, Church reform, university reform, union of the three kingdoms, a pacified and civilised Ireland, and, above all, that which Milton's lines pointed as the chief work of the chief of men—liberty of conscience. We need not sneer at the aspirations of the Republicans. If some men did not aspire too high, the world in general would fall too low. But at that time a republic would have been one of party; England required to be made again a nation, and only a chief raised in some measure above parties could govern nationally. The first day of Cromwell's reign, in fact, was the last of confiscation and vengeance, and every Cavalier was safe in person and estate. The case of Washington was different, for his nation at the end of the war was united; it had been struggling with a Power that was external. Cromwell did not allow his government to remain military for an hour longer than he could help; but the step from civil war to legal government could not be made at once. The insulting manner in which he dismissed the Long Parliament was a stain on Cromwell's character both as a man and as a statesman. He was probably carried by his feelings beyond his self-control. The lecturer paid a tribute to the wise intentions of the derided "Barebones" Parliament, whose programme of legislation we had not yet entirely carried out. But that Parliament neglected the essential thing of providing for the foundation of a Government. The instrument of Government, under which Cromwell was afterwards made Lord Protector, defended him from the charge of keeping arbitrary power. Under this provisional constitution, Government could not be party government. A national council was always sitting, even in the Parliamentary recess. The army was brought under the Constitution; the nation was secured from being entangled in war without its own consent by the Ministers; and the provision for the abolition of rotten boroughs would have saved us from the work of rotten borough Parliaments, among other things from our £800,000,000 of debt. As to Cromwell's personal disposition, when invited to take the Crown, the lecturer showed inducements of policy, but was ready to believe that a man who has done great things may, by the grace of Heaven, keep his heart above tinsel. The still half-feudal instincts of the nation were indulged with a House of Lords, but it was a failure. An old aristocracy, Mr. Smith said, may be darned to any extent, but to make a new one when the age of conquest and conquering races is past is not an easy thing. He ridiculed the notion that Cromwell's fortune was ever shaken by fear. The lecturer noticed also that insurgents were tried before juries in the counties where rebellion occurred; so little known to this military despot were our present theories of martial law. By his interposition to save Ormond when conspiring in London, the strongest man of those days had bequeathed a lesson to emasculate sentimentalists who aped manhood by affecting a furious lust of violence and blood. In his foreign

policy he talked of making the name of an Englishman as respected as that of a Roman, in a strain suited to those times, not to ours. But he sought to form a Protestant league and put England at its head, and this was a policy which, unlike that of modern diplomatists, all the nation could understand, and carried the heart of the nation with it. When England is again a united nation, said the lecturer, though she will not meddle or bluster, she will make herself felt in the world once more. Cromwell did not trample on the weak, or send scolding despatches; but in the case of Savoy he interposed effectually, and right was done.

The lecture was full of historical details of the utmost interest, of which only the fragments of a summary could be reproduced in the foregoing brief outline.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR JAMES FREETH, K.C.B. and K.H.—The death of General Sir James Freeth, Colonel of the 64th (the 2nd Staffordshire) Foot, occurred on the 19th inst. The deceased officer, who entered the Army in 1806 as Ensign in the Royal Staff Corps, served in the Peninsula and France from May, 1809, to January, 1814, and was present at the following actions and sieges:—viz., Fuentes d'Onor, capture of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, battles of Salamanca, Burgos, Vittoria, and Pyrenees, (near Pampeluna), Nivelle, and Nive, for which he had received the war medal with eight clasps. He was made a Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order in 1833, and a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1862. His commissions bore date as follows:—Ensign, Dec. 25, 1806; Lieutenant, May 30, 1809; Captain, April 21, 1814; Major, Jan. 21, 1819; Lieutenant-Colonel, July 11, 1826; Colonel, Nov. 23, 1841; Major-General, Nov. 11, 1851; Lieutenant-General, Oct. 20, 1858; General, March 9, 1865; and Colonel 64th Foot, Aug. 13, 1855.

SIR WILLIAM SNOW HARRIS, K.T., F.R.S.—The death of this gentleman took place at his residence, Lockyer-street, Plymouth, on Tuesday evening. He was in the seventy-sixth year of his age, and had devoted a great portion of his life to scientific pursuits. Sir William was a native of Plymouth, where he was born in 1791; was brought up to the medical profession, and shortly after admission was appointed surgeon of the South Devon Militia. He subsequently practised his profession for a short time in his native town, when he relinquished it as a public practitioner, and devoted his attention to his favourite science, electricity; and to his skill and arduous study the Royal and mercantile navies of the world are indebted for their protection from the destructive effects of lightning. He was elected a member of the Royal Society in 1831, was awarded the Copley medal in 1835, and in 1839 his "Inquiries concerning the Elementary Laws of Electricity," printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*, obtained for him the prize as the "Bakerian Lecturer." In 1841 Sir William was awarded a pension of £300 per annum from the Civil List for his scientific acquirements, and in 1847 received the honour of knighthood. He was also, in 1845, presented by the Emperor of Russia, with a valuable and handsome vase in acknowledgment of his scientific services. In private life Sir William Harris's virtues were as highly appreciated as were the results of his scientific pursuits in public. He was a man of universal genius—a poet, a painter, a musician; in fact, there was nothing to which he applied himself that he did not give evidence of ability and, if followed, success. He was a magistrate of the borough of Plymouth, and, though from the state of his health he had not recently taken an active part in public affairs, his loss will be severely felt and his memory universally cherished in the locality.

MR. D'ALTON.—The Dublin papers announce the death of Mr. D'Alton, a distinguished literary worker in the department of Irish history and antiquities. He graduated in Trinity College, and was called to the Bar in 1813. He is known as the author of the "History of the County of Dublin," "Memoirs of the Archbishop of Dublin," an "Essay on the Social and Political State of Ireland from the First to the Twelfth Century" (a work which obtained the highest prize ever given by the Royal Irish Academy, and the Cunningham gold medal), the "History of Drogheda" (2 vols.), "Annals of Boyle" (2 vols.), the "History of Dundalk," and of "Illustrations, Historical and Genealogical, of the Army List of King James II." (2 vols.). He has also published "Dermid; or, Erin in the Days of Borohme," a metrical romance in twelve cantos (1814), and he was for many years a frequent contributor to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and to many Irish periodicals. His manuscript collections illustrate Irish localities, and upwards of 2500 families of the empire, with notes of tours in England and Wales in 1826.

RIOTS IN DEPTFORD.—Some rioting took place in Deptford, on Thursday, under pretence of taking food to satisfy the cravings of hunger. Several bakers' shops were pillaged; but as the mob did the same in drapers' and other shops where food was not to be obtained, it is probable that these depredations were committed by disreputable characters, and that the really respectable and suffering poor of the locality had nothing to do with the disturbances.

THE CASE OF SHOOTING A SISTER.—The young man, Frederick Howlett, who was taken into custody a few days since on the charge of shooting his sister, Miss Harriett Howlett, of South Elmham, near Bungay, Suffolk, has been formally committed for trial. He is to be removed from Ipswich Gaol to a lunatic asylum on a warrant from the Home Secretary. Miss Howlett (who was on good terms with her unhappy brother) is still in a precarious state; she has lost her sight, and her face is much disfigured by wounds.

REAPPEARANCE OF CHOLERA.—Cholera has suddenly reappeared in a very malignant form in the north. The pit villages of Coxhoe, Kelloe, and Tarrington Hill, in the neighbourhood of the city of Durham, have been in a somewhat unhealthy condition of late, and last week cholera appeared in a malignant form at Coxhoe. On Saturday last twenty-three persons were attacked by the disease, and several have since succumbed to it. Every precaution has been adopted to stop the ravages of the disease, but it is likely to spread. As has been the case with all recent outbreaks of cholera in the north, impure water is blamed as the cause.

THE REPRESENTATION OF BOSTON.—Mr. Staniland, the Liberal member for this borough, has just issued the following address:—"To the Freemen and Electors of the Borough of Boston.—Gentlemen,—Shortly after the meeting of Parliament, it is my intention to resign into your hands the trust with which, as your representative, now for nearly eight years you have honoured me. During this period I have voted in favour of all measures tending to religious, political, and commercial freedom, thereby giving practical effect to those political professions which first secured me your suffrages; and your marked approval of my Parliamentary conduct, as evinced by the generous and disinterested support accorded me at the last election, I shall ever consider an ample reward for my humble exertions. Although, in making this announcement, I shall soon cease to represent your views in Parliament, yet I shall not cease to take an interest in any movement affecting the welfare of the borough; and on any occasion where my services can be useful they will ever be cheerfully rendered in furtherance of any such object."

THE NEW BISHOP OF TUAM.—The new Bishop of Tuam, Dr. Bernard, was enthroned in his cathedral on Friday week. The interesting ceremony attracted many of the nobility and gentry of the surrounding country. When it was over a large company partook of luncheon at the palace. Archdeacon Townsend, in the name of his clerical brethren, welcomed his Lordship to the diocese, and expressed their pleasure at knowing that their chief pastor had been a supporter of Scriptural education and Evangelical truth, whose family was known throughout Ireland for its loyalty to the Throne and Constitution, "a member of the old Bandon family from the loyal city of Bandon Bridge." The Rev. Dr. Trench repeated the welcome, and said that, when he read the announcement of his Lordship's appointment, his exclamation was, "Thank God!" The Rev. C. H. Seymour, Provost of Tuam, also welcomed his Lordship; and Mr. D. H. Kirwan, D.D., did the same on the part of the laity of the diocese. The Bishop, in reply, promised to support all the missionary agencies in which his predecessor was interested, and said he would be always bold to speak in defence of Scriptural education, which he believed to be essential to the very existence of Protestantism. The Earl of Bandon, who was present, concurred in what his brother had said on this subject. He felt that the laity were part of the Church, and that their essential duty is missionary work, and that not confined to their own communion. It should never cease, his Lordship said, so long as there was a Roman Catholic unconvinced to the truth. The diocese of Tuam has been ruled for a long time by members of the leading aristocratic families in the country. In 1782 the Hon. Joseph Deane Burke became Archbishop of Tuam, and afterwards succeeded his elder brother as Earl of Mayo. In 1794 the Hon. William Beresford was translated to this see from Ossory, as Lord Mayo had been from Ferns, and was, in 1812, created Baron Decies. The Hon. Wm. de la Poer Trench, brother of Lord Clancarty, was translated from Elphin to Tuam in 1819, and he ruled the diocese till 1839, when he was succeeded by the Hon. Thomas Plunket, who inherited the title of his father, Baron Plunket, formerly Lord Chancellor of Ireland; and now the son of another peer has succeeded to this truly aristocratic mitre. The net income of the see is £4039, with the patronage of ninety-five livings. The Prelate rules over three dioceses—Tuam, Killa, and Achonry, which include the counties of Galway, Mayo, and Sligo, and a portion of Roscommon—nearly the whole of the province of Connaught. The net income of the clergy is £17,409. The total Church population in Tuam is 9000; in Killa, 4724; in Achonry, 3392. The total Roman Catholic population in these three dioceses respectively is—Tuam, 302,367; Killa, 81,337; Achonry, 105,200. It must be confessed, on comparing these numbers, that Bishop Bernard has heavy missionary work before him if it is not to cease till the last Roman Catholic is converted. It is a remarkable fact that not only Bishop Plunket, but the last of the Archbishops, Dr. Trench, was full of this missionary spirit, and firmly believed that every soul in the diocese was committed to his spiritual oversight.

LAW AND CRIME.

CERTAIN proceedings of the kind technically termed "interlocutory" (i.e., relating to the conduct of a suit, as distinguished from its merits) have been brought recently before Mr. Baron Bramwell, in relation to certain actions brought against Mr. ex-Governor Eyre, in relation to alleged misdeeds committed by him in Jamaica. It appears that four persons have severally commenced civil proceedings against Mr. Eyre. On behalf of the defendant applications were made to a Judge in Chambers for the addresses of these plaintiffs. Upon these applications orders were made that the addresses should be furnished; and it was also ordered that in the mean time all further proceedings should be stayed. Some time after this order, and before the plaintiffs' addresses had been furnished, the defendant's attorneys applied for security for costs, on the ground that the plaintiffs resided beyond the jurisdiction of the Court. This was opposed on the ground that the proceedings had been stayed by the former order, and that therefore such application, being in itself a proceeding, was irregular. Mr. Baron Bramwell held that it was premature and irregular, and dismissed the summons. The various comments which have been made by certain of our contemporaries upon this matter must be somewhat diverting to those acquainted with common law proceedings, who must know how little the decision has to do with the main bearings of the case. The fact is that the order for the addresses of the plaintiffs, by some oversight, appears to have been irregular, if made strictly as reported—namely, with an indefinite stay of proceedings until compliance therewith. The words of the statute in this respect (15 and 16 Vic. c. 76 cap. 7) are that the plaintiff shall, in case the Court or a Judge shall so order and direct, declare in writing within a time to be allowed by such Court or Judge the profession, occupation, or quality and place of abode of the plaintiff on pain of being guilty of a contempt. In this case it is said that the plaintiffs reside in Jamaica, but are to be brought over to England. When here, they will not be liable, being within the jurisdiction, to give the security sought. It certainly appears scarcely reasonable that a plaintiff out of the jurisdiction should be allowed to have his action tied up so as to enable him—subsequently to the order for his address—to come to England and thereby escape the demand for security. Had a reasonable time been fixed for furnishing these addresses, the difficulty could scarcely have arisen. It therefore seems to us, that defendant's solicitors have been tripped on a practical point, and that the course to be adopted to rectify their position would be to apply to have the order amended.

At the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday last, Mr. Gratton Cooke, the well-known musician, appeared as plaintiff in a suit against the firm of Cramer and Co. (limited). It appeared that the late Mr. T. Cooke, father of the plaintiff, was the author of a work, entitled "Singing Exemplified," published by the old firm of Cramer and Co., predecessors of the defendants. Mr. T. Cooke, during some years and up to his decease, had been paid a sum of 3s. 6d. upon every published copy of this work. The number was ascertained by each copy being stamped by Mr. T. Cooke with an impression representing his autograph. On the decease of Mr. Cooke this stamp passed into the possession of his widow; and, after her death, in 1860, to Mr. Gratton Cooke, who from that time almost to the present received the customary payment for stamping the copies for publication. At length 150 were sent to him for stamping, and duly returned. But defendants refused to pay the £265s. required, alleging that they had discovered that the copyright expired in 1854, and that they had already paid in error a sum of about £236, which they in turn demanded of Mr. Cooke. For the plaintiff it was urged by his counsel, Mr. Roger Gadsden, that he had nothing to do with the copyright, of which he knew not the existence, or commencement, or save upon defendant's statement, the date of expiry. He had done certain work for defendants, at a stated price, and they had from time to time ordered and accepted such work and availed themselves of all advantages therefrom accruing. The defendants failed entirely to make out any case or argument in opposition to this view, and a judgment was given for plaintiff without his counsel being called upon to reply.

POLICE.

A COUPLE of "CAT-WITTED" ONES.—Mr. John Adolphus Philipott was charged before Mr. Arnold, at Westminster, with assaulting and wounding. Complainant said that, between ten and eleven o'clock on the previous night, he was near St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, when he heard the cries of a cat and saw defendant's bull-terrier worrying it. Defendant and his wife were near; and the former having, in reply to his inquiry, said it was his dog, complainant told him to take it off. The defendant replied it was no use; he could not leave his wife. Complainant offered to take care of the lady for his wife while he went to the dog, but he refused. Complainant then made two thrusts at the dog with his umbrella, and the dog left the cat, which he believed shortly afterwards died. Complainant then inquired defendant's name, which he gave, and he then told defendant that this was a fit case to be brought before the Animals' Friend Society. Some words then followed, in the course of which complainant said, in allusion to the lady, "If she is your wife," upon which defendant pushed up against him. Complainant then raised his umbrella, but before he could get it up to defend himself, defendant struck him a blow on the head with the thick end of a stick which he carried, and wounded him. He fell insensible from the blow.

Defendant said he much regretted what had occurred. He had nothing to do with his dog worrying a cat, and was not aware of it until accosted by complainant. It was such a night as but few had ever seen, the pavement being a sheet of glass, and he was afraid to leave his wife, who was in a very nervous and delicate condition. He felt hurt at the imputation conveyed in the words "If she is your wife," after he had declared she was, and had unhesitatingly given her name and address; and was still more provoked by the complainant calling him a scoundrel, upon which he told complainant if he repeated it he would knock him down. Complainant then made a thrust at him with his umbrella, when he (defendant) struck him on the head with the thin end of his stick, which was very light, and, owing to the dangerous state of the pavement, he fell, but not from the force of the blow.

Complainant denied that he had used the word "scoundrel," and thought he might have mistaken that for "scandalous," which he certainly said.

Mr. Stockdale, of Stafford-place, an officer in the Court of Chancery, gave evidence which did not alter the general character of the case.

Mr. Arnold observed that the affair was much to be regretted, and there appeared to have been some excitement on both sides. Defendant was to blame in not calling the dog off the cat when he found it had attacked

it. Complainant, who was naturally excited, was wrong in having assumed that defendant had set the dog on, and had used a very unfortunate expression in saying, "If she is your wife," and this was aggravated by the belief that complainant had called the defendant a scoundrel. One had his umbrella up, the other his stick, and the blow was given on the impulse of the moment. He hardly considered it a case for punishment; but should require the defendant to enter into his own recognisances to appear again in a week, hoping that in the interim some satisfactory arrangement might be made between the parties.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS IN THE POTTERIES.—The carpenters and joiners of the Staffordshire potteries have given notice to their employers of a demand for an advance of 6d. a day in their wages, raising them to 30s. a week, and a reduction of the hours of labour to the extent of two hours and a half a week, the change to come into operation on the 1st of May. The builders in reply have offered the men 6d. an hour, making the wages 29s. a week; but they decline to reduce the hours of labour below fifty-eight hours a week. The operatives have not had time to decide upon the offer of the masters; but, as it will, if adopted, introduce the system of working and paying by the hour, it is not unlikely to be refused by them. The difficulty with the bricklayers, which has been pending since May last, and has ever since prostrated the building trade of the district, has only just been removed by a reference of the dispute to arbitration.

CASH PAYMENTS IN LIVERPOOL.—The council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has adopted the following resolution:—"That the system of payments of large sums in bank-notes at present existing in Liverpool is proved to be objectionable, entailing as it does upon the mercantile community a serious loss of interest on amounts returned in the hands of merchants, brokers, and others, for the purpose of making transfers, which, as in London and elsewhere, would be made by cheque, while the temptations to fraud and robbery would be minimised by conforming to the latter usage; and that the council be recommended to seek an interview with the leading bankers and others interested, with a view to the promotion of this change." It was generally considered that an arrangement as to commission, which would be remunerative to the bankers, and which would be readily agreed to by merchants for the additional convenience and safety afforded by the cheque system, might be adopted. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the local bankers.

THE BARONETRY OF TICHBORNE.—A correspondent of the Post says that it is a source of considerable satisfaction to those who have followed the intricate tale of the baronetcy of Tichborne to have something definite at last to announce, and when that something is a positive confirmation of previously doubtful circumstances, involving almost incredible incidents and vast interests, the pleasure is undoubtedly increased a hundredfold. The baronet has returned. So says his mother, the Lady Doughty Tichborne. Of this fact I can speak with the greatest confidence. At the end of last week Sir Roger Charles Tichborne went over to Paris, and saw the Lady Doughty Tichborne, who immediately recognised him and acknowledged him as her long-lost and long-looked-for son, exhibiting, as was natural, the most profound emotion. But it would seem that, though Sir Roger has increased so much in bulk, his health has not been improved by his roving life. Soon after his arrival in Paris he was taken ill, and up to the last tidings received by intimate friends he is still confined to his bed-chamber. The most eminent physicians of the French capital have been summoned to attend upon him. The anxiety of Lady Tichborne on his account is intense. Hardly can she be prevailed upon to leave the bedside of the sufferer, but they remain together from morning till night discussing upon the strange events of the past. Every precaution that prudence could suggest was taken that the interview between them might not prove too much for the lady. Andrew Bogle, who has taken such a conspicuous part in the proceedings throughout, preceded Sir Roger to Paris, and announced that he would follow. Almost simultaneously another gentleman, in the interests of the present Sir Henry Alfred Doughty Tichborne—the minor—started for the same capital, and had several interviews with her Ladyship, to whom he gave the benefit of his counsel and experience, but it would appear without accomplishing the object of his journey. But, though Sir Roger Charles has returned, according to the acknowledgment of his mother, it would not be safe to assume for one moment that he will be permitted to enter on the undisputed possession of the family estates. To all present appearances, he will have to fight a stubborn foe in the law courts. Already, it would seem, the hostile forces are arrayed, and a long lawsuit may result. The solicitor for Sir Roger Tichborne thus writes to the public journals:—"So many vague statements having appeared in the press with reference to Sir Roger Tichborne, I think it right to inform you that I accompanied him and another gentleman to Paris on the 10th inst., where his mother, the Dowager Lady James Doughty Tichborne, instantly recognised and acknowledged Sir Roger as her son, and has spent the last ten days with him. I only returned yesterday evening, and have brought with me the necessary declarations of Sir Roger's identity, taken at the British Embassy, in his presence and that of her Ladyship and the two most distinguished English physicians in Paris. Acting under the advice of counsel, Sir Roger will now take the requisite steps to obtain possession of his estates."

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC IDEA OF TOLERANCE.—The new Roman Catholic journal, the Westminster Gazette, in a late number, has the following noteworthy remarks upon a subject which Archbishop Manning's speech at Birmingham has brought for the time into prominence. It says—"In countries unfortunately no longer exclusively Christian, religious, or rather irreligious, liberty must run riot, since it would be manifestly unwise or inexpedient to punish religious error, or unjust as affecting such as are wholly ignorant that they are guilty of heresy. But fortunately in Rome a state exists where the civil law subserves, as we urged last week it ought to do, the purposes of the Divine Will, and where, in consequence, the liberty to offend God and to scandalise Christians by introducing false worship is accorded to none. A Scotch Presbyterian clergyman, however, is not of our opinion, and feels exceedingly vexed in spirit that he is not allowed to assert in a Christian State and proclaim from the centre of Christendom itself, in the teeth of divine and human law, the abominable error that man has a right to teach false doctrine and to practice what false worship he chooses. But since Pius IX. won't tolerate in favour of a score or so of Scotch Presbyterians a breach of Divine and human laws, the Times takes up its cudgels in behalf of the Rev. James Lewis. It is exceedingly wrath that the poor Romans, when sorely tempted, should not at least have a convenient opportunity at hand of committing the sin of heresy; in somewhat the same fashion Fagin, we suppose, could he have written a leader in the Times, would have given vent to his indignation that the jewellers at night put shutters on their windows and thus took away from such as were unwillingly honest a tempting opportunity of enriching their scanty store. This last act of the Papal Government brings out in bold relief the unworlship of the Papacy, and its steadfast adherence to the doctrine peculiar to Christianity, that public heresy is a moral offence to be punished by law. As long as the scandal of a false worship in a Christian country is not obtruded on public notice, it may happily escape the arm of the law; but, from the moment the practice of such a false worship adds, were it only through the indiscreet and offensive conduct of a single Scotch Presbyterian of note, a public scandal to its moral guilt, then it is the bounden duty of a Christian State to put down such an evil. But the suppression of the Scotch Presbyterian worship in the city of Rome—like the successful protection afforded in the Mortara case (which should never be forgotten) to a Christian child, in spite of the entreaties, and threats, and violent abuse of anti-Christian Governments and unbelieving politicians, is a singular testimony to the

unworldly spirit of the Papacy. In the stress of a great calamity like the present, when his enemies are multiplied and his friends are few, Pope Pius IX. does not for an instant hesitate, on the dictates of conscience, to raise the noisy anger of Scotchmen and Presbyterians all over the world, as in the Mortara case he defied the malice of Israel, so potent in the financial and political world. These acts of the Pope, in luminous contrast to the spirit of the age, were not for any earthly object, but simply to rescue a baptised child from perdition, or to uphold a Christian principle of Government. Such unworlship is a strange and marvellous spectacle, which from its innate force alone forshadow's victory."

CRUEL TREATMENT OF AN IDIOT.—A shocking story comes to us from Hereford about an idiot boy named Johnny Hards, who was said to have been found dead on a bit of straw in a cellar, owing to the gross cruelty with which he had been treated. An inquest was held upon the body, at which witnesses deposed that the poor boy had not had a shirt washed for twelve months, and that he had been seen in a cold cellar almost naked, having on but a thin pair of trousers and an old jacket. Bread was given to him here by some women, which he ate ravenously; and Mrs. Brookes, a witness, said, in her opinion, he was not an idiot, for he had told her that his "aunt" (stepmother) would beat him if she knew he received anything. Mrs. Parry and Mrs. Wall said they found the poor creature crouched up in a cupboard at the top of the house, with his face to the wall, and saw his sister Ann strike him twice till he reeled again, and they found Mrs. Hards drunk down stairs. They tried to take the boy away, but he ran frightened from his stepmother under an archway in a dark cellar. He then had no shirt to his back nor stockings on his feet, and his breast and neck were a mass of sores and bruises. She went to the police station for the police, but by the time the officers arrived he had been washed and a shirt put on him. Miss Newman had heard blows, and had heard him cry out frequently, "Oh, don't, aunt, don't!" Mr. Williams says the boy kicked down the shop into the cellar. Mrs. Jane Morris had seen him naked in cold weather, except his trousers, and had seen him frequently beaten. The idiot's own brother and sister used to beat him unmercifully. Miss Lawford had frequently heard screams and seen him beaten with fagot sticks. Dr. Ling, who made a post-mortem examination, said he had found the body pallid and emaciated. There were many abrasions and scratches, numerous about the elbows, wrists, and shoulders; burns and marks about the loins and right temple; inside the body there was no fat, the muscles were pale and thin, and the stomach was empty. He believed death was occasioned by congestion of the brain, caused by exposure to cold and absence of food. The jury returned a verdict that "Deceased died from congestion of the brain by exposure to cold, and that he had been treated with great neglect, harshness, and cruelty by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hards; his brother, Thomas Hards; and his sister, Ann Hards." Our correspondent says the deceased child was heir to considerable property in Hereford. —*Full Mail Gazette.*

PANTOMIMES IN MUSIC-HALLS.—At the Marlborough-street Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. Frederick Strange, of the Alhambra Palace, Leicester-square, was summoned before Mr. Tyrwhitt for unlawfully performing in that establishment a stage-play called "Where's the Police?" Mr. George Frederick Leicester, for the prosecution, gave evidence as to the character of the piece. The curtain rose upon a scene representing shops. Clown, Pantaloon, Harlequin, and Columbine were introduced. The incidents usually represented in the second part of Christmas pantomimes were then exhibited, dancing taking place at intervals, and music being played continuously. Mr. Bonham Donne, examiner of plays for the Lord Chamberlain, was then examined. He said that all pantomimes played in London passed through his hands before being licensed. The opening scenes and the stage directions for the "comic" scenes were written out and sent in to him. He had not licensed any pantomime for the Alhambra; but the piece represented there, he was of opinion, from the previous witness's description, seemed very like those he was in the habit of licensing. He had not himself seen the performance. Mr. Poland, for the defence, characterised the prosecution as selfish and ungenerous, and said he considered the combined theatrical managers, by whom it was instituted, as sort of trades union. For their own personal objects, they wished to put down an entertainment which no other human being did or could object to. He maintained that the piece at the Alhambra was not a stage-play. It involved no consecutive train of ideas, and developed no story. It was merely a crude series of practical jokes, and the only words uttered by the Clown were, "Here we are to-morrow." Mr. Tyrwhitt said he was called upon to decide a question which was not quite so slippery as the one he had previously decided. On the question of fact, he was bound to decide that this was a pantomime, and nothing else. If his decision was disapproved, the parties might appeal to the Sessions. It mattered very little, he thought, that the opening scene was wanting. The combination of Harlequin, Columbine, Clown, and Pantaloon became a pantomime from the earliest times. The Act of George II. included pantomimes. He decided that this was a pantomime, and, as he could not see that it was anything else, he must put the penalty of £20 on the defendant. Mr. Poland said he should appeal. A second case against Mr. Strange was allowed to stand over until the appeal has been heard; and a case against the London Pavilion was postponed for a week.

MORE POLICE "HARD SWEARING."—Some barefaced perjury was committed on Wednesday before Mr. Elliott, the Lambeth Police-court magistrate. Edward Sharp, and William Cox, foremen in the employment of Mr. Webster, contractor for the South Thames Embankment, were charged with assaulting police-constables Barrett, 67 L, and Pratt, 389 P. Constable Barrett swore that on Monday evening last he was told he was wanted at a certain public-house, that he and Constable Pratt went there, and that he no sooner put his head inside the public-house than he was violently assaulted by the accused. His brother constable corroborated his statement. The landlady of the house, on the other hand, and her servant and three other witnesses, swore that the two policemen were drinking at the bar with three other men for at least ten minutes before Sharp and Cox entered, and that the fight which took place was the result of a challenge given by police-constable Barrett. The constables denied the truth of the testimony given by the landlady of the public-house and the four other witnesses, and the magistrate decided on sending the case to the sessions.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE transactions in all National Stocks this week have been very moderate, at depressed currencies, owing, chiefly, to several parcels of gold having been withdrawn from the Bank of England for transmission to Paris. Consols, for Money, have marked 90½; Ditto, for Account, 90½; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 89½; Exchequer Bills, 10s. to 14s. prem. Bank stock has been 48 to 49.

Indian Securities have moved off slowly. India Stock, 213 to 215; Ditto, Five per Cent, 106½ to 107; Rupee Paper, 101 to 102, and 105 to 107; India Bonds, 35s. to 36s. prem.

The supply of money in the general Discount Market is very large. The demand for accommodation has been far from active, at the assessed rates for the best commercial bills—

Thirty Days'	2½ per cent.
Sixty Days'	3
Three Months'	3
Four Months'	3 34
Six Months'	4

Loans for short periods have been freely offered in the Stock Exchange at 2 per cent.

The amount of subscriptions to the new Chilean Loan has exceeded £13,000,000.

The Crown grants for the Colonies have disposed of £65,500 in Debentures.

Bar silver is steady, at 60½d. per oz.

The market for Foreign Securities has been rather flat. Spanish Passive Stock, however, is somewhat firmer; but in other respects the tendency of prices is downwards.—Brazilian Four-and-a-Half per Cent have realised 63½; Ditto Five per Cent, 146½, 72½; Buenos Ayres Deferred, 53½; Chilean Six per Cent, B. 99½; Egyptian Seven per Cent, 84; Ditto, Debentures, 80½; Italian Five per Cent, 186½, 72½; Ditto, 186½, 72½; Three per Cent, 172½; Ditto, 186½, 72½; Peruvian Five per Cent, 186½, 64; Portuguese Three per Cent, 43½; Russian Five per Cent, 182½, 88½; Ditto, 186½, 88½; Spanish Passive, 72½; Ditto, Certificate, 14½; Turkish Six per Cent, 184, 78; Ditto, 182½, 54½; Ditto Five per Cent, 186½, 30½; Ditto Four per Cent, 101½; Venezuela Six per Cent, 186½, 30½.

United States 5-20 Bonds are steady, at 72½; Virginia Six per Cent have realised 41½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway Debentures, 37½ ex coupon; Erie Shares, 41½; and Illinois Central, 80½.

Colonial Government Securities have been in good demand:—Canada Six per Cent have been done at 100; Ditto Five per Cent, 98½; Cape Six per Cent, 105; New Zealand Five per Cent, 187½ to 187½; New Zealand Five per Cent, 84½ ex div.; Queensland Six per Cent, 1800, 91½; South Australian Six per Cent, 104½; and Victoria Six per Cent, 105.

Bank Shares are in but moderate request:—Alliance, 17½; Anglo-Egyptian, 14½; Australasian, 63½; Bank of New Zealand, 14½ ex div.; Chartered of India, Australia, and China, 14½; Chartered Mercantile of India, Australia, and China, 34½; 14½; Consolidated, 54½; Imperial Ottoman, 8½; Land Mortgage of India, 28½; London and Brazilian, New, 54½; London Chartered of Australia, 21½; London and County, 67½; London Joint-stock, 45½; London and Westminster, 38½; Oriental, 43½; South Australia, 38½ ex div.; Union of Australia, 47½ ex div.; and Union of London, 45½ ex div. The Miscellaneous Market is very quiet.—City of Moscow Gas, 18½; Credit Foncier of England, 34½; Crystal Palace, 29½; Ebbw Vale, 41½; Egyptian Commercial and Trading, 3½; General Credit and Discount, 24½; International Financial, 21½; London Financial, 71½; London General Omnibus, 3 13-16; National Discount, 11½; New Consolidated Discount, 11½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 70½; Ditto, New, 70½; Rio de Janeiro City Improvement, 19½; Victory of Egypt Loan, 70½; Imperial Gas, 66½ ex div.; Imperial Continental, 92½; Phoenix, 82½; and various others. In the Railway Share Market there has been much less business, and the quotations have fallen 1 to 1 per cent. Mr. Laing has consented to his name being proposed at the forthcoming meeting, as willing to accept the appointment of comptroller of the financial affairs of the Great Eastern Railway Company.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The few samples of English wheat on sale here this week have been taken off slowly, at about stationary prices. In foreign wheat the market has been more active, and at late rates. Floating cargoes of grain have been held at extreme currencies. Barley, both English and foreign, has commanded full prices. The malt trade has been inactive, on former terms. There has been an inquiry for 0-1s, beans, and peas, at about stationary prices. The market in oil has been more moderate. —W. H. BAKER, ENGLISH.—Wheat, 52s. to 71s.; barley, 31s. to 35s.; malt, 38s. to 78s.; oats, 21s. to 36s.; rye, 32s. to 38s.; beans, 34s. to 41s.; peas, 37s. to 42s. per quarter; flour, 45s. to 60s. per 100 lb.

CATTLE.—Only limited supplies of fat stock have been on sale, and the market has been more moderate. —W. H. BAKER, ENGLISH.—Cattle, 10s. to 14s.; sheep, 10s. to 14s.; pigs, 10s. to 14s.; calves, 10s. to 14s.; veal, 10s. to 14s.; pork, 10s. to 14s.; butter, 10s. to 14s.; cheese, 10s. to 14s.; and other goods, 10s. to 14s.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—These markets are fairly supplied with meat, which moves off slowly, as follows:—Beef, 10s. to 14s.; mutton, 10s. to 14s.; pork, 10s. to 14s.; and other goods, 10s. to 14s.

TEA.—We have no change to notice in the value of any kind; but the market is rather heavy.

SUGAR.—Fine samples have commanded full prices, but inferior parcels have sold on former terms. Stock, 81,474 tons, against 82,747 tons at this time last year.

COFFEE.—The transactions have been on a moderate scale, at last week's currency. Stock, 12,992 tons, against 14,563 tons in 1866.

RICE.—Sales have progressed slowly, at about stationary prices. Stock, 24,231 tons, against 34,419 tons last year.

PROVISIONS.—The inquiry for butter has become less active, owing to the return of mild weather; and the late advance in the quotations is barely supported. Bacon is steady, at full prices.

Hams, lard, and most other provisions are firm.

TAOISTS.—F.Y.C.T., on the spot, is quiet, at 44s. per cwt. The stock of this kind of goods has been more moderate last year.

OILS.—Lined oil is selling at 36s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. Most other oils rule about stationary. American turpentine, 37s. 6d. to 38s.; and French, 38s. per cwt.

SPICES.—Rum is in fair request, at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d. per gallon for proof. We have no change to notice in the value of either brandy or grain spirits.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, 45s. to 48s.; clover, 45s. to 48s.; and straw, 11s. to 12s. per load.

COALS.—Best house coal, 27s. to 28s.; other qualities, 21s. to 25s. per ton.

HOPS.—There is about an average business doing in most kinds of hops, at full prices.

WOOL.—The transactions, both for home use and export, have been trifling, at previous rates.

FOURTEENS.—Higher prices have been obtained for most kinds. Present currencies range from 98s. to 100s. per ton.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18.

BANKRUPTCY ANNOUNCED.—W. HAMBER, Bishopsgate-street, process server.—E. NIELD, Manchester, yarn agent.—W. WILDING and J. L. STRACHAN, Preston, cotton-spinners.

BANKRUPT.—H. SLEIGH, Commercial-road East, cheese-monger.—S. DYNE, South Norwood, carpenter.—J. WOOLTON and J. WOOLTON, Hilgay, farmers.—C. MATTHEWS, Hitchen, chemist.—J. GANNAWAY, Southampton, licensed victualler.—J. H. CHUBB, Commercial-road South, master mariner.—W. H. WEBER, West Cowes, auctioneer.—J. DAGLISH, Finsbury, furniture-dealer.—D. SIMPSON, Berners-street, plumber.—W. TISSINGTON, Islington, servant.—G. E. KAYE, Islington, attorney-at-law.—H. PALMER, Abingdon, innkeeper.—J. P. ATKINSON, Brompton-road, ironmonger.—J. P. ATKINSON, Aldershot, master mariner.—J. H. HANCOCK, Cambridge, miller.—M. R. SOLOMONS, Piccadilly, commission agent.—J. C. SCULLARD, Rochester, licensed victualler.—E. A. LONDON, Fulham, S. ABBOTT, jun., Edmonton, haydealer.—J. CLAYTON, jun., Strand, newspaper agent.—J. ANSELL, Smithfield, manufacturing perfumer.—J. DOLLING, Egham-road, bookseller.—F. FLECHNER, D-lane, master mariner.—J. G. MOODY, Manchester-square, draper's assistant.—J. F. MATTHEWS, Reigate, builder.—C. SIBLEY, Barnsbury, cabdriver.—W. R. NASH, Tottenham-court-road, house decorator.—N. PHILLIPS, Pentonville, merchant.—J. C. WHIST, Nutfield, baker.—T. J. GIBBS, West Kensington, coach-builder.—J. D. VOYLES, Charlton, beer-shop-keeper.—T. WILSON, Westmarch, coach-spring manufacturer.—J. FISHER, Westmarch, gas-tube manufacturer.—F. BEARDMORE, Longton, earthenware manufacturer.—F. SHARP, Hereford, builder.—W. ROBERTS, Birmingham, printer.—W. WHITE, Islington, coach-builder.—J. SHEPHERD, Islington, coach-builder.—J. CRUTTLE, Islington, attorney.—S. CONDON, Plymouth, printer.—J. NAVEY, Potternewton, nurseryman.—W. ROSE, Thirsk, grocer.—E. W. WYNN, Liverpool, commission agent.—T. CALDICOTT, jun., Liverpool, bookseller.—W. ROBINSON, Weatherly, merchant.—J. K. RIXON, Wellington, brewer.—J. H. BARNES, Islington, master mariner.—J. H. CARTWRIGHT, Manchester, J. HAMER, jun., Barrow-in-Furness, draper.—J. WHEELER, Audenham, smallware manufacturer.—R. DUNSBURY, seammaster, whitewash.—T. TAYLOR, Norwich, painter.—J. H. G. KENNY, Swans, clerk.—J. G. MANTON, Islington, coach-builder.—J. H. WILSON, Woodbridge, accountant.—W. WILLY, Staphole, contractor.—J. W. FERGUSON, Manchester, linen yarn agent.—J. DUNN, Crown, grocer.—J. BYLES, Tadcaster, G. TAYLOR, Wellington, provision-dealer.—G. T. TRIGG, Bristol, saddler.—A. THOMAS, Bristol, saddler.—J. SPENCE, Kingston-upon-Thames, brewer.—E. TAPLIN, Liverpool, commission agent.—H. BOKROCK, Liverpool, commission merchant.—G. VERNON, Over, innkeeper.—S. G. ALLEN, Sheffield, hoister.—E. SPEDD, Oldham, latherer.—R. JOHNSON, Gormond, innkeeper.—T. CHURCHWARD, Torquay, carpenter.—G. RICKBOURN, Arnold, farmer.—J. COUSINS, Newcastle, printer.—J. H. G. KENNY, Swans, clerk.—J. G. MANTON, Islington, coach-builder.—J. H. WILSON, Woodbridge, accountant.—W. WILLY, Staphole, contractor.—J. W. FERGUSON, Manchester, linen yarn agent.—J. DUNN, Crown, grocer.—J. BYLES, Tadcaster, G. 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JANUARY 20, 1907.